

SOS
SAVE OUR
SERVICES

“Some people will try
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but really it just
means less.”

**NOVA SCOTIA BUDGET MEANS
CUTS TO SERVICES, JOBS, COMMUNITIES.**

The Liberal budget hurts Nova Scotia communities.

CUTS TO SERVICES PEOPLE COUNT ON

- Community Services that protect our most vulnerable citizens
- Child Welfare workers that support our children and families
- Land Registries that provide vital information
- Economic, Rural Development & Tourism services that support local businesses
- Provincial Parks and campgrounds for Nova Scotia families and visitors

CUTS TO JOBS THAT SUPPORT COMMUNITIES

- Closure of Visitor Information Centres that support jobs in local hospitality and tourism
- Cutting 320 full-time public sector jobs, meaning fewer opportunities for young Nova Scotians in our communities
- Replacing staff with machines at seven provincial parks
- Closure of seven satellite courthouses and 13 land registry offices in rural Nova Scotia
- Elimination of 42 Community Service positions

CUTS THAT HURT US ALL

- Completely inadequate support of home care services, while wait lists have risen by 80%
- Health funding that fails to keep up with inflation and growing demand as our population ages, meaning longer waits for care
- Freezing income assistance for the second year in a row, hurting vulnerable families who are facing rising costs
- Taking the cap off of post-secondary tuition, driving up the cost of education even further beyond reach



**Tell Premier McNeil our
communities aren't worth less:**

premier@novascotia.ca **NSGEU**



**SORRY MULCAIR,
HE'S JUST NOT
THAT INTO YOU**
Trudeau cold on coalition
TODAY IN NEWS

**Halifax's
New
Music Mix**



Halifax metro



ENTERTAINMENT
**THE MANY FACES
OF TATIANA**



Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

High 8°C/Low 1°C Sunny



Herd's lead takes a hit

The Mooseheads' Timo Meier tries to get a shot past Wildcats netminder Alex Dubeau on Tuesday. The Herd lost 4-3 but are still up 2-1 in the series. Story in Sports. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Khyber gets six months

THE ARTS

Coalition to 'think outside the box' to save aging building



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

Arts and community groups have been granted six months to come up with a viable plan to save the historic Khyber building.

On Tuesday, regional council voted 13-4 in favour of a motion tabled by Coun. Wayne Mason at the request of the Khyber Arts Society, Friends of the Khyber and Neptune Theatre.

The groups have formed a partnership, asking that a



There is something that is so powerful about this building that has people talking about it.

Emily Davidson, of Friends of the Khyber

moratorium be placed on the building while they work with city staff to gain access to information such as engineering reports and CAD drawings, so that a separate team of experts can compile a proposal for its restoration.

A staff report suggests the renovations needed to bring the building back up to code would cost around \$4 million.

"This is a very credible partnership," Coun. Darren Fisher said Tuesday, explaining that Neptune Theatre's involvement will allow the groups to leverage more private money than the city could.

However, some councillors questioned why the city should

spend millions to create an arts incubator in a condemned building when there is ample space at other locations, such as the Halifax Forum or the World Trade and Convention Centre once it's vacant.

"I just think we're running around in circles trying to save everything," Coun. Tim Outhit said Tuesday.

Emily Davidson of Friends of the Khyber said the council decision left her hopeful.

She believes their team will call into question many of the estimated renovation costs and "think outside the box" in order to save much of the building's space that staff say will be lost in the renovations.



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For the sake of local films

PROTEST

Representative rallies support after tax-credit counteroffer



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

A film-industry rep expects one of the biggest rallies in the province's history Wednesday

as talks continue between the industry and government on the film tax credit.

Screen Nova Scotia chairman Marc Almon and other industry members met with Finance Minister Diana Whalen for two hours Tuesday, in what seemed a "hopeful session."

"It was revealing. I think they learned a lot and we learned as well some of the challenges they're facing," Almon said.

The proposed 2015-16 provincial budget would cut the refundable portion of the tax credit by 75 per cent, effective

July 1.

Although Almon says he felt the minister understood the problems with the proposed change, Whalen told reporters Tuesday afternoon she was only acknowledging that the film industry has a problem with the change.

"We do not," she said.

Whalen wouldn't say whether it is possible to return the tax credit to its former status, or how else the film industry could access more funds, besides repeating they must work with what has been laid out in

66

We need to find a solution as soon as possible.

Marc Almon, Screen Nova Scotia chairman

the budget.

"The next step is to look at what funds are available in the fiscal envelope and to talk about how best to put it in a way that they can access it," Whalen said.

Almon said the industry reps have presented an alternate proposal to the finance minister and another meeting is set for Friday.

He said that makes it especially important for hundreds to come out from noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday to protest the tax cut.

"I think it's going to be the biggest rally in (Nova Scotia) history," Almon said.

"I'm hoping this is really making the government rethink their plans, because we've got to turn this around."

IN BRIEF

NDP table mandatory film consultation bill

The Nova Scotia NDP has tabled a bill to lock in mandatory consultation with the film industry before any changes to the tax credit go through.

NDP Leader Maureen MacDonald said it's important to have mandatory consultation with the film industry enshrined in legislation, as there's no longer a department that could properly inform the finance minister of the full impact of the proposed tax-credit cut.

"They have wiped out the institutional and organizational memory and expertise within government," MacDonald said about the former Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism becoming the Department of Business as well as the cutting of Film & Creative Industries.

MacDonald said the previous NDP government made a mistake by not holding any consultation before cutting funding for the Yarmouth ferry, and hopes the Liberals don't have to learn their lesson "the hard way" with the film industry.

Finance Minister Diana Whalen said Monday her department did talk with the industry before the budget was delivered last week and had position papers showcasing their opinions.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



CRIME ARREST MADE FOLLOWING 'THREAT CALL' Police return to their vehicles after responding to Rodney Terrace over a "threat call" out of Eastern Passage. A person involved in the call was located and arrested on the Dartmouth street, police said, but no further details were provided. JEFF HARPER/METRO

SALTSCAPES



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COUNCIL

Report ordered on risk manager

While some city councillors worry over whether Halifax can afford to establish a risk-management office, others worry it can't afford not to.

During Tuesday's regional council meeting, councillors debated a request tabled by Coun. Linda Mosher to direct staff to write a report assessing the establishment of a risk-management office.

Mosher said a risk-management officer would assist with decision-making, allowing council to better understand the positives and negatives of any given project.

She noted that the city's auditor general has recommended the creation of such a position to initiate a more thorough risk-management process.

Some of the city's past blunders, such as the over-budget Washmill Lake underpass and 2011 concert scandal, could have likely been avoided with a risk-management office, she added.

Coun. Jennifer Watts said she'd back a report to learn about other options besides the creation of a new position, such as exploring resources within the private sector for increased risk management.

"We ought to know the consequences of our decisions based on everything that we know at the time," Coun. Steve Craig said, adding that could be achieved by improving the overall process.

Council voted unanimously in support of requesting a report.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO



Coun. Stephen Adams voted against a motion Tuesday to hold off on acquiring the Purcell's Cove backlands, saying the staff recommendation to make the process part of the new greenbelting policy would cause an unnecessary delay. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Purcell's Cove rolled into greenbelt policy

DEVELOPMENT

Acquiring land to be considered in context of new policies



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

Regional councillors have agreed that any discussion around the public acquisition of the Purcell's Cove Backlands would be rolled into HRM's pending greenbelting policy — but not without some

contention.

City staff recommended that since private lands in the area known as Williams Lake, or Purcell's Cove Backlands, are designated as an urban reserve — meaning no development can take place until 2031 — there is no urgency and all decisions can be deferred until the greenbelt and open-space plan is complete.

But some, such as Coun. Stephen Adams, questioned the correlation between the greenbelting policy and the process of bringing these lands into public ownership.

"It has nothing to do with greenbelting. It has everything to do with bringing those lands

10-7

The final vote, in favour of letting discussion around the public acquisition Purcell's Cove Backlands occur in the context of the greenbelt policy.

into public ownership for all to enjoy," he told council, citing instances of trespassing as well as one of the property owners' disapproval of having their lands greenbelting.

Similarly, Coun. David Hendsee called the recommenda-

tion by city staff a "tactical delay," expressing concerns that the price tag of the lands will only increase as the city waits to make a decision.

Staff explained the greenbelting plan will be tabled by early 2016 and serve as a framework for the regional open-space network, so council can determine what lands are most valuable to bring into public ownership as parkland.

"What is this fear around greenbelting? It really is a question of let's do some very comprehensive regional planning around parkland space," Coun. Jennifer Watts said Tuesday.

IN BRIEF

Schmidtville closer to being a heritage district

City council is moving forward in designating the historic downtown neighbourhood of Schmidtville as a heritage conversation district.

Councillors voted in favour of accepting a background study and directing staff with the design review committee to write a report on preserving the neighbourhood, bordered by Clyde, Morris, Brenton and Queen streets.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

Bylaw amendments eyed for new developments

Halifax council will consider amending the Dartmouth Municipal Planning Strategy and land-use bylaws for two new building developments in Dartmouth.

During Tuesday's regional council meeting, city staff tabled a report recommending that council consider granting site-specific amendments to developer W.M. Fares Group to build a commercial and office building and a five-storey residential tower at the corner of Portland Street and Portland Hills Drive.

Coun. Bill Karsten of Dartmouth-South brought forward a petition signed by 23 residents, voicing concerns about the potential developments, but he assured council many of their questions will be answered during community consultation.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

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Cleve's Source for Sports is marking down their huge inventory of sporting goods and loading it all into the Halifax Forum Multi-purpose Room for immediate sale. Sales Reps are slashing prices on their samples. All to be sold off at up to 77% off!

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Halifax Forum Multi-purpose Room on Young Street



Big melt reveals damage

PUBLIC WORKS

Snow removal equipment busted curbs, tore up lawns

Julia Manoukian
For Metro | Halifax

Attempts by the city to reduce damage caused by snow removal equipment have literally been buried.

After 2,300 reported incidents last winter, city crews practised prevention in September and October, setting up markers at "trouble spots" in their areas where crews and equipment had a track record of nicking curbs, lawns and sidewalks.

"When the snow got to a certain point, even those markers were underneath the snow. It was a good attempt, anyway," said Jennifer Stairs, a senior communications adviser for the city.

Since Jan. 1, the number of



A car heads past a broken guardrail on Barrington Street on Monday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

reported incidents of property damage is close to 700.

The damage pertains to either private property or city-owned infrastructure, including grass, plants, and curbs.

Unlike this time last year, the city is still trying to get a full

idea of the extent of damages, because "a lot of it is still under snow and ice," said Stairs.

In the past, she said the bulk of repairs have been on asphalt and curbs.

"There's certainly going to be more damage than normal

this year because of having to bring in heavy equipment to remove the packed ice and the icy snow banks," said Coun. Tim Outhit.

Outhit said he's even seen several fire hydrants "sheared off" in his own neighbourhood.

\$121,000

The amount the city spent repairing snow-related damage in 2012-13, the most recent year for which information was available.

Stairs recommends homeowners call 311 as soon as they discover damage, so the city can send someone to assess the extent, and whether it was caused by city or contractor equipment.

Contractors are responsible for covering any costs their equipment causes, while the city will pay for repairs made by their equipment.

Stairs said operators do their best not to cause any damage, but sometimes conditions make it difficult.

"If it's a particularly heavy snowfall or if there's heavy blowing snow, it's really difficult for the operators to actually see where the obstacles are, or even the edge of the street," she said.

IN BRIEF

Police find car stolen during home invasion

Halifax Regional Police have recovered a vehicle they say was stolen during a break-in this past weekend.

According to a release issued Tuesday, officers recovered the stolen motor vehicle — a 2010 silver Honda Civic — in the 6900 block of Ward Avenue around 2:10 p.m. Monday.

Police say the car was stolen during an incident around 1:30 a.m. Sunday. Three men wearing masks kicked the door in at a home on Acadia Street, held the residents at gunpoint and searched the house.

They took several pieces of electronic equipment and then fled in the homeowner's car.

Only a limited description of the suspects is available. Investigators don't believe it's a random attack.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Halifax Regional Police, or Crime Stoppers.

METRO

ROADS

Conditions may get credit for fewer pedestrian collisions

The month of March saw a significant decline in vehicle-pedestrian collisions in Halifax.

A new report from police in Halifax states there were 12 collisions throughout the municipality, compared to 22 in 2014.

Ten took place in Halifax Regional Police jurisdiction, and two occurred in RCMP jurisdiction.

"It is a decrease from last year, but it's not at zero," said Halifax Regional Police Const. Pierre Bourdages. "Twelve is still 12 too many."

Bourdages suggested hazardous conditions caused by unusually severe winter weather, along with poor visibility, made pedestrians and motorists more cautious. There was also less traffic on the road.

In March 2013, there were nine reported vehicle/pedestrian collisions in Halifax.

According to the report released Tuesday, there have been 50 collisions involving pedestrians so far in 2015.

Of those, 48 per cent occurred in crosswalks.

Sixteen of the pedestrians involved reported no injury, while 24 experienced "minor" injuries.

Eight experienced "moder-



Pedestrians cross at a crosswalk on Lower Water Street last year in this file photo. So far in 2015, 48 per cent of collisions involving pedestrians have occurred in crosswalks. METRO FILE

22

There were 12 collisions involving pedestrians last month, compared to 22 the previous March.

ate" injury, and two died as a result of their injuries.

Bourdages reminds pedestrians to make sure vehicles see them and make eye contact.

For motorists, he suggested "don't use cellphones, pay attention to what happens."

Every intersection is considered a legal crosswalk under the provincial Motor Vehicle Act, whether it's marked or unmarked.

JULIA MANOUKIAN/FOR METRO



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Two people charged with murder to get joint trial

LORETTA SAUNDERS

Some pretrial evidence to be included in the trial: judge

A Nova Scotia judge has ruled that two people charged in the death of Loretta Saunders will be tried together. Chris Hansen, a spokeswoman for the province's Public Prosecution Service, says Judge Josh Arnold of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court informed lawyers today that the first-degree murder trial of Blake Leggette and Victoria Henneberry will proceed Monday as planned.

Henneberry's lawyer had argued that the two accused should be tried separately. Leggette's lawyer supported the motion but the Crown opposed it. Arnold also ruled that some pretrial evidence the defence wanted to exclude will be included. That evidence was discussed in court during a pretrial hearing but cannot be reported on due to a publication ban.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Blake Leggette arrives at Halifax Provincial Court last year.

JEFF HARPER/METRO



Victoria Henneberry is lead up the stairs into Halifax Provincial Court last year. JEFF HARPER/METRO

IN BRIEF

Drugs, cash seized from Lower Sackville home

Two men and one woman are facing various drug trafficking charges after being arrested Tuesday at a Lower Sackville home.

According to a release from Halifax RCMP, officers with the integrated Criminal Investigation Division carried out a search warrant at a home on Beaver Bank Cross Road early Tuesday morning.

Investigators confiscated a quantity of cocaine, marijuana, psilocybin, additional drug paraphernalia and cash. Three people were arrested without incident, according to the release.

Brian Keith Saunders, 46, Joshua Oswald Saunders, 18, and Gillian Wentworth, 34, all from Lower Sackville, are facing charges that include drug possession for the purpose of trafficking.

METRO

Plea date set on charge for Cape Breton musician

A Cape Breton musician will be back in Port Hawkesbury provincial court in May to enter a plea on a charge of sexual assault.

Colin Douglas Grant, 30, of High Street, Sydney, is alleged to have committed the offence last Sept. 6 in Mabou.

The complainant in the case is female and her identity is protected by a publication ban.

After a court appearance Tuesday, Grant was ordered to return to court May 19 to enter a plea to the charge. He continues his release on conditions that include having no contact with the complainant.

Grant, a fiddle player, has performed both as a solo artist and a band member. CAPE BRETON POST

CONTRACTS END

CanJet laying off 47 pilots and 47 flight attendants

The union that represents pilots at CanJet Airlines says the Nova Scotia-based company plans to lay off almost half of its 100 pilots by May 6.

The Airline Pilots Association issued a statement Tuesday saying it's disappointed that 47 pilots will be let go by the charter airline, saying the union had worked for months with management to

mitigate involuntary layoffs. Company representatives in Enfield, N.S., could not be reached for comment.

The airline is a division of IMP Group Ltd., based in Halifax.

The pilots union would not comment on what prompted the layoffs.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Union of Public Employees

confirmed that 38 seasonal and nine permanent flight attendants have received lay-off notices.

Audrey Tam, president of CUPE Local 4044, said the seasonal layoffs were expected, given that the airline's business slowed down when the winter flying season to vacation hot spots ended.

"It's the same number we

saw last year," Tam said in an interview from Montreal. "We don't consider them a layoff. Their contracts were to end on May 1."

CanJet started offering its own vacation packages to the Caribbean through CanJet Vacations in December. The company also provides charter flights on behalf of Transat Holidays.

Tam said the nine layoffs of permanent staff stemmed from Transport Canada's decision to allow the airline to change the minimum requirements for flight attendant staffing levels.

The pilots union says the CanJet fleet had shrunk from seven to five Boeing 737 aircraft aircraft last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

8 INCREDIBLE BANDS!

Billy Cox
 Salute to Jimi Hendrix

Pat Travers

Wild T

Gary Hoey

Matt Minglewood

Christine Campbell

Carson Downey

Charlie A'Court

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AGRICULTURE

Snow dump crushes farming structures

As the snow begins to recede in Nova Scotia, all that remains of Bob Parker's main greenhouse is a crumpled pile of aluminum and plastic.

"It basically looks like a bomb hit it," he said Tuesday from his property in Pictou County. "And because of the amount of snow that's still on the ground, we can't even get near it."

The severity of the winter left farmers like Parker unable to clear the snow off their buildings between storms. The weight caused widespread damage.

"I think growers did everything they could to try to prevent the loss, but in many cases, the loss came anyway," he said.

Parker said his farm is about three weeks behind on production, but he considers himself one of the luckier ones; he knows of other greenhouse growers across the province who lost 50 to 75 per cent of their growing space and won't be able to produce crops this year. Chris van den Heuvel, president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, said the large surface area of farm structures makes them especially vulner-



It's a lot of loss. It's going to be difficult for a lot of growers to come back from this.

Pictou County farmer
Bob Parker

able to winters like this one.

"I would say that agriculture was hit unusually harder, relative to other industries," he said.

Based on data gathered from 62 farmers by the federation through an online survey, damage to farm structures across the province is estimated at \$8.5 million and counting, far beyond the usual wear and tear.

"Those aren't any of the costs around mitigating any of the snow and ice removal, or any of the long-term costs," said van den Heuvel.

The federation of agriculture will present the results of its online survey to the provincial government in the hopes of getting some disaster relief.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A collapsed greenhouse in Falmouth on Tuesday. The severe winter has wreaked havoc in the agriculture sector, with damage estimated at \$8.5 million. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Visitors to Saint Antonios Antiochian Orthodox Church get to see the renovations in progress for the first time during Doors Open Halifax last year. The completed restorations will be part of this year's venues. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Shining a light on the 'life' of our buildings

DOORS OPEN

Veith House, Waeg among new venues added to event



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Come June, the whole city can feel like exclusive members of a south-end Halifax club.

The third annual Doors

Open event takes place June 6 and 7, with 35 venues welcoming the public, many of which remain closed for the rest of the year.

New venues include HMCS Sackville, the Central Library, Veith House and the Waegwoltic Club on Coburg Road, which sits right on the North-west Arm and boasts tennis courts, swimming pools and beautiful grounds.

"Last year we had the Halifax Club, and that drew tremendous crowds out to see it for exactly the reason that non-

members can't get in there," Doors Open Halifax president Hugh MacKay said after the launch Tuesday. "It's an opportunity for people to come and see this rather exclusive venue. The Waegwoltic hopefully will be the same."

MacKay said the weekend, which saw participation grow from 16,500 in 2013 to over 37,000 visitors last year, is an opportunity to satisfy our curiosity about the "very striking" buildings we pass every day.

"We don't often have the time or feel that we have the

licence to go in ... to find out about the functions that give life to that building," MacKay said.

Venues from past years, like Government House, city hall, Province House, the Old Town Clock and the fire station on University Avenue are all on the list again, as well as Neptune Theatre, St. Antonios Antiochian Orthodox Church on Windsor Street and Metro Transit's Ragged Lake facility.

For event updates, visit doorsopenhalifax.com.

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Students help boy buy wheelchair

HEALTH

Liverpool kids collect pop tabs in thousands

A New Glasgow boy is getting some unexpected help from students at Liverpool Regional High School, who have collected thousands upon thousands of pop can tabs.

Emmett Francis, 8, was born with spina bifida, hydrocephalus and a clubbed foot. He's a growing youngster in need of a new wheelchair.

"A wheelchair is his main mode of transportation," said Charmaine Smith, Francis's mother. "It takes a lot of wear and tear so ... hopefully it will be a sturdier make; this one keeps falling apart."

Amanda Fisher, a teacher at LRHS, is a good friend of Smith's. She is teaching an inquiry-based learning program at the high school where students have to find a need and then provide a service to fill that need.

Fisher was already collecting tabs for Francis, so she asked her students to join in. "I said anyone struggling with an idea (for class) or can't come up with one can

join me so away they come," said Fisher.

The students became passionate about helping the little boy from New Glasgow they'd never met.

They are even writing him letters.

The students so far have collected approximately 100,000 tabs, which can be turned in for cash at bottle exchange depots. NEW GLASGOW NEWS



Emmett Francis, 8, from New Glasgow, is in need of a new wheelchair and walker. COURTESY NEW GLASGOW NEWS

APPEAL

N.S. court upholds ruling in wrongful conviction case

A Nova Scotia court has rejected the appeal of man who argued unsuccessfully last year that RCMP negligence caused his wrongful conviction on a statutory rape charge 45 years ago.

Gerry Barton's lawyer argued at a hearing in January that a Nova Scotia Supreme Court judge erred last year when he cleared the RCMP of wrongdoing.

Dale Dunlop said Justice James Chipman should have found Barton's confession in 1969 to be false and the result of some form of police coercion, when he gave a statement in Digby, N.S. Barton was 19 at the time.

The five-member Court of Appeal supported Chipman's decision, saying he was correct in finding police met a reasonable standard of care in taking Barton's statement.

The appeal court says Barton gave a sworn statement to the RCMP that acknowledged having had consensual sexual intercourse with the complainant in her home.

The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal originally found in 2011 there was a miscarriage of justice. The woman recanted her story in 2008 and blamed her brother for causing her pregnancy, which DNA tests confirmed.

+ SUPREME COURT

Attorney vows to consult experts for options

Attorney Dale Dunlop said Tuesday he will consult experts about a possible appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

But the latest ruling from the appeal court, released Tuesday, cites new evidence that emerged during a civil lawsuit heard last year by Chipman in the province's Supreme Court.

Preliminary inquiry documents from 1969 were presented in the Supreme Court showing that Barton gave a statement to police.

"There was also no suggestion at the time of improper conduct in how the statement was taken," says Tuesday's appeal court decision.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

6 RED FLAGS INTERVIEWERS LOOK OUT FOR.



INCRIMINATING PHOTOS

You will be Googled. And even if you have strict privacy settings, it's still possible for someone inside your network to copy and share photos. Post wisely.



BAD ATTITUDE

No one likes a Negative Nancy. Avoid rolling your eyes or complaining about former bosses. Employers want to hire upbeat, positive team players.



SMOKING

Don't smoke a cigarette right before your interview. Many people have a strong aversion to the smell of smoke and your interviewer could be one of them.



TYPOS

Proofread your resume and cover letter over and over again. Misused words and spelling mistakes make you appear unskilled or, even worse, indifferent.



HIGH FASHION

Unless you're interviewing to be Gaga's next assistant, leave the experimental fashion at home. Simply aim for looking well groomed and professional.



DESPERATION

While it's good to be enthusiastic about the role, you don't want to appear desperate. If you don't feel confident about yourself, why should an employer?

THOUGHTS? TWEET US @WORKOPOLIS

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IN BRIEF

Flood warning issued in western Kings County

The Kings Region Emergency Management Organization (REMO) is warning residents living near the Annapolis and Cornwallis River flood plains — between Kingston and Aylesford, and between Berwick and Coldbrook — to prepare for possible flooding.

The flooding is possible as a result of elevated temperatures causing considerable snow melt.

"Residents in these areas are asked to monitor rising water and take precautions if similar river conditions have caused flooding or other problems in the past," said Kings REMO co-ordinator Brian Desloges.

Residents are encouraged to take precautions, including moving possessions to a higher level and ensuring they have sufficient quantities of medications and other necessities. KINGS COUNTY NEWS

IN BRIEF**Indian PM Modi arrives in Ottawa for broad visit**

From trade, to energy, to the environment, to security, to culture, Prime Minister Stephen Harper will have no shortage of topics to discuss with visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Harper will also have an unspoken domestic political dividend — boosting his party's standing with Canada's 1.2 million Indo-Canadians as an October federal election looms.

After a meeting Wednesday, Harper will accompany Modi to Toronto and Vancouver and will have no fewer than 16 fellow Conservatives appearing with them at various events.

Harper's fondness for diaspora politics is well known. His tough talk towards Russia is seen as a way of courting the 1.2 million Canadians of Ukrainian descent, for instance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top court strikes down mandatory minimums for gun crimes

The Supreme Court of Canada dealt the Harper government's tough-on-crime agenda a serious blow Tuesday by striking down a law requiring mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes. The 6-3 ruling said the statute was unconstitutional as it upheld a 2013 Ontario Court of Appeal ruling. The court said the mandatory minimum sentence could ensnare people who pose "little or no danger to the public."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**POLITICS**
WHEN HOCKEY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COLLIDE

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, from the left, Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard and Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger are seen at an inter-provincial summit on climate change in Quebec City on Tuesday holding sweaters from their province's teams that will participate in the NHL playoffs. The goal of the meeting was to show Canadians how their leaders were uniting to fight the effects of climate change, but it also highlighted their differences. While provinces such as Ontario and Quebec are working on cap-and-trade carbon emissions, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall said that Canada should be focusing on creating clean-coal technology.

JACQUES BOISSINOT/
THE CANADIAN PRESS**Coalition? Not with Mulcair: Trudeau**

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau says he would "maybe" be open to the idea of forming a coalition with the NDP if Tom Mulcair was not running the party. Asked on Tuesday whether having someone other than Mulcair as leader would change the dynamic in terms of a coalition between the two parties, Trudeau replied: "I don't know. ... Honestly, I don't want get into hypotheses. Maybe, but maybe not."

"(Mulcair's) style is anchored in the old way of practising politics. Politics needs to be about rallying. And we have very different perspectives on how politics should be practised."

Some recent polls have suggested the possibility of a minority government in Ottawa after this fall's election. Mulcair reiterated his openness last month to a possible coalition with the Liberals if it is necessary to topple Stephen Harper's Conservatives.

On Tuesday, Trudeau rejected the idea of a coalition.

"I'm not interested at all in any formal arrangement," said the Liberal leader, noting that the parties have differences of opinion on economic and constitutional issues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau**
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Keep Kenyan refugee camp open: Student

CONFLICT**Over 500,000 people have relocated to Dadaab camp****Gilbert Ngabo**
Metro | Toronto

Hassan Mohamed was only two when his family settled into

Dadaab refugee camp in northern Kenya, fleeing civil war that was ravaging Somalia. He left in 2012 and came to Toronto as a student. His parents and five siblings remain in the camp, "living in real terror," Mohamed said as the UN refugee agency pleads with the Kenyan government to keep it open.

"Closing that camp and sending people back in Somalia is like throwing them into a burning fire," Mohamed said Tuesday amid reports of more violent deaths in his homeland.

"These refugees are no lesser victims of al-Shabab."

Leaders in Kenya have ordered Dadaab be closed and more than 500,000 refugees relocated in the wake of an April 2 attack that killed nearly 150 students at Garissa University College.

Officials suspect members of al-Shabab — a militant Islamist group — are hiding in the refugee camp, the world's largest.

Kenya's vice-president has said the country needs to change "the way America

changed after 9/11."

Closing the camp would cause "extreme humanitarian and practical consequences," the UN refugee agency said.

Mohamed hopes to see more security measures instead of drastic action at Dadaab — a place he holds dear.

"That camp raised me and made me who I am today," said the third-year University of Guelph accounting and computer student. "I don't think closing it down will solve Kenya's security problems."

CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY

VOYAGE 1**VOYAGE 1: A CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY FOR PATIENTS WITH MODERATE-TO-SEVERE PLAQUE-TYPE PSORIASIS IS NOW ENROLLING**

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NEWFOUNDLAND FORMER BEATLE ONCE AGAIN CALLS FOR AN END TO THE SEAL HUNT Paul McCartney and then-wife Heather Mills with a seal pup in 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military trainers off to Ukraine

ARMED FORCES

Troops won't be in harm's way: Defence Minister

The Harper government went to extra lengths Tuesday to make it clear Canadian military trainers will not be in harm's way when they deploy to western Ukraine to school battle-weary formations in the finer points of combat.

"These Canadian Armed Forces personnel will not be going anywhere remotely close to the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine," Defence Minister Jason Kenney told a news conference.

The U.S.-led mission is unlikely to raise the temperature of the simmering conflict in eastern Europe, but that could change if Washington, Ottawa and other nations decide to permanently base troops in places like Poland and the Baltic states, which NATO is being urged to do.

Steve Saideman, chairman in international affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa, said Russia will likely make noise about the training mission and milk it for propaganda value, but likely won't seek to retaliate.

"We still live in a nuclear world, and there are certain

things Russia can do, and certain things Russian can't do," Saideman said.

"What I think the Russians would care more about was if the United States planted a brigade in Poland and another brigade strewn throughout the Baltics. That would be much more upsetting to them."

He says another cautionary line would be crossed if the West decided to ship arms and munitions to Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko's government.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, however, says he is very concerned by what he calls a dangerous precedent and a lack of consultation.

"This is not a NATO mission and yet we're going to be on the Russian border," he said during a stop in Rimouski, Que.

"When it came to Mali or Libya, Mr. Harper would consult and try to have the other parties onside. But more and more, he is acting unilaterally ... and Canadians have the right to be involved and consulted."

Canada is sending 200 military trainers to Ukraine sometime in early summer, joining the U.S. and Britain in a two-year commitment to improve the effectiveness of Ukrainian forces. The mission addresses a number of requests from the government of Ukraine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA

Duffy operated within the system: Defence

Senators hand out plenty of work contracts, but officials don't check whether anything actually gets done, nor who ultimately does the job, an Ontario court judge was told Tuesday during the trial of Mike Duffy.

Duffy's defence lawyer Don Bayne used his cross-examination of a Senate official to make the case that the now-suspended senator was operating within the system as it

existed — with broad rules and light oversight.

The former Conservative faces 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery, including a set that involve \$65,000 in contracts set up through the company of his Ottawa friend Gerald Donohue.

"Sen. Duffy's contracts and the amount of detail in them and the way he described his requests are like any other senator?" Bayne asked Senate

human resource officer Sonia Makhoul. "Yes," Makhoul said.

"This contract that you've approved and the commitment of public funds for all 105 senators, you don't know what actual work was done at all in the contracts?" Bayne asked.

"No, because it's at the discretion of the senator," Makhoul replied.

The Senate human resources office approved contracts

given out to a firm owned by Donohue, a former local TV executive. Duffy said he was to do research and consulting work, including advising him on issues involving the aging population.

Bayne took Makhoul and the courtroom through some of the myriad guidelines, orientation pages, reports and rules that govern how senators are supposed to run their offices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Unemployment rate up: Report

THINK TANK

Broadbent Institute critical of PM's policies

Unemployment is higher, job quality is mixed and there is evidence pay inequality has increased under the Harper government, according to a report to be published Wednesday.

While the economy has created more jobs since the Great Recession of 2008, the unemployment rate is still higher than it was in 2006 when the Harper government came to office, the report for the Broadbent Institute found.

"That hasn't stopped Stephen Harper and his Conservative government from trumpeting their record as good economic managers, claiming to pursue a successful jobs and growth agenda," the report by the progressive Ottawa-based think tank noted.

With a federal budget less than two weeks away and an election campaign coming this



Job growth in Canada since 2006 has been disproportionately concentrated in part-time service sector jobs such as fast food, a new report from a left of centre think tank concludes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

fall, the institute decided to take a closer look at whether the job market has improved under Harper's watch.

"We've got a federal election coming. We should debate the record," said Andrew Jackson, the institute's senior policy advisor. "We should be talk-

ing about how to create more and better jobs, instead of pretending there's no problem."

Federal finance minister Joe Oliver, in a recent speech in Toronto, said the government had created more than 1.2 million net new jobs since the depths of the recession, calling it one

of the strongest job creation records in the G7.

"The overwhelming majority of those jobs are full-time, private sector, and in high-wage industries," Oliver said in a speech to the Economic Club of Canada.

Oliver also said Canada has

“We should be talking about how to create more and better jobs, instead of pretending there's no problem”

Andrew Jackson, the Broadbent Institute's senior policy advisor

the best pay gains in the G7 according to the International Labour Organization's Global Wage Report.

Canada has experienced continuing middle-income growth, while for many countries it has halted, according to the Centre for American Progress, Oliver said in the speech.

A Fraser Institute report concluded that "the adult unemployment rate is at historically low levels", and Canada has seen "a marked increase in high-wage factory jobs in recent years," Oliver also noted.

Jackson said his research

found a third of new jobs are in the lowest-paid occupations, such as sales and service, and a third of new jobs are part-time.

Wages are "about flat" if you adjust for inflation, Jackson said.

"I think the key point I'm making is they're over-hyping the quality of the jobs they've created. And 2009 is not the appropriate starting point," Jackson said.

In comparison with 2006, when the Harper government was first elected, unemployment is higher for all age groups and both genders, the institute notes, based on data supplied by Statistics Canada.

Among 25 to 54 year olds, for example, the unemployment rate in 2006 was 5.3 per cent. The rate rose in 2009, during the Great Recession, to 7.1 per cent. By the end of 2014, it had fallen to 5.8 per cent but remained above pre-recession levels, the data shows.

The number of part-time jobs rose at twice the rate of full-time jobs and was concentrated among older workers over age 55, the report says.

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GORDIE HOWE

Hockey legend, now 87, in midst of 'life-changing' turnaround

Ravaged by a stroke that left him unable to walk and barely able to speak, Gordie Howe decided it was time to quit.

His sons didn't want to hear it. Not from Mr. Hockey, whose 25-year career in the NHL was defined by his indomitable style and blend of grit and finesse.

"He was saying, 'Take me out back and shoot me,'" recalled Murray Howe, a diagnostic radiologist. "He was serious. It wasn't like a joke. I said, 'Dad, let's just see if we can help you first.'"

The 87-year-old Howe is back

on his feet after what his family called a "life-changing" turnaround.

They had gone to Mexico for stem cell treatments that are still in an experimental phase. The treatments are not yet proven to work, and conclusions should not be drawn from the experience of a single patient. Howe plans another round of treatments in June.

These days there's little doubt his spirits are high. At a recent session of occupational and physical therapy in Lubbock, Howe's eyes twinkled

and he smiled now and then as he flirted with the two young women putting him through his paces. He even planted an innocent, light kiss on the cheek on his occupational therapist and twirled her once as if dancing.

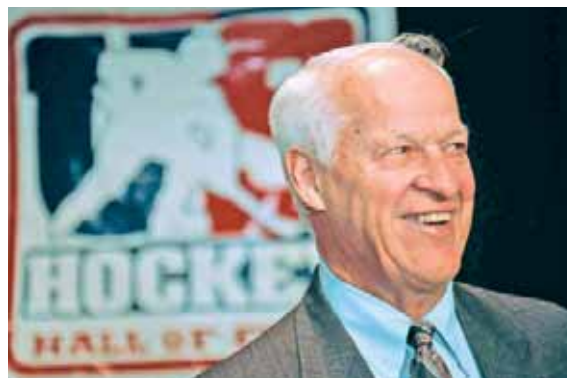
"He is doing extremely well, very well for his age," said Nathalie Geddie, Howe's physical therapist, adding that he still has weakness on his right side. "To think about how far he's come since he's had his stroke, he's made significant functional gains."

Recent years have indeed been challenging for Howe, who set NHL marks with 801 goals and 1,850 points — mostly with the Detroit Red Wings — that held up until Wayne Gretzky surpassed him. He retired from hockey for good, but not until he was 52.

The body he counted on as an athlete has stayed relatively strong, but memory loss from the early stages of dementia became a problem even before his wife's death in 2009 after battling Pick's disease, a rare form of dementia similar to Alzheimer's.

Colleen Howe's death seemed to hasten Howe's decline, Murray Howe said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



In this Nov. 1, 2000, file photo, hockey legend Gordie Howe speaks to the media before a U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame event.

DAWN VILLELLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



Sculpture of a cigarette butt in Paris. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANCE

Smoking, drinking, anorexia on hit list

France's lower house of Parliament has approved a draft law tackling a range of public health problems from smoking and drinking to obesity and anorexia.

The bill passed in the National Assembly on Tuesday with 311 votes in favour and 241 against. The reform now goes to the Senate.

One measure would make it a crime to use anorexic models or encourage anorexia. Any modelling agency or person who pays a model below a certain body mass index would

face up to six months in prison and 75,000 euros (\$80,000 US) in fines if convicted.

Another measure would force manufacturers to package their cigarettes in plain boxes.

In another part of the bill, people who encourage minors to drink excessively could face a year behind bars and a 15,000 euro (\$16,000 US) fine.

The sale to minors of products inciting people to get drunk, such as T-shirts, would be forbidden.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANHATTAN

Closing arguments in 1979 missing child trial

The case of a six-year-old boy who vanished in 1979 marked the end of an innocent era but has led to reforms that have helped save many children from a similar fate, a prosecutor said Tuesday at the trial of the man accused of killing him.

Etan Patz "is larger than his very little, important life," Assistant District Attorney Joan Illuzzi-Orbon said in closing arguments at the Manhattan murder trial of Pedro Hernandez, a 54-year-old New Jersey man.

Hernandez confessed in 2012 in a case that has confounded law enforcement for decades. Etan's body was never found, nor was any trace of clothing

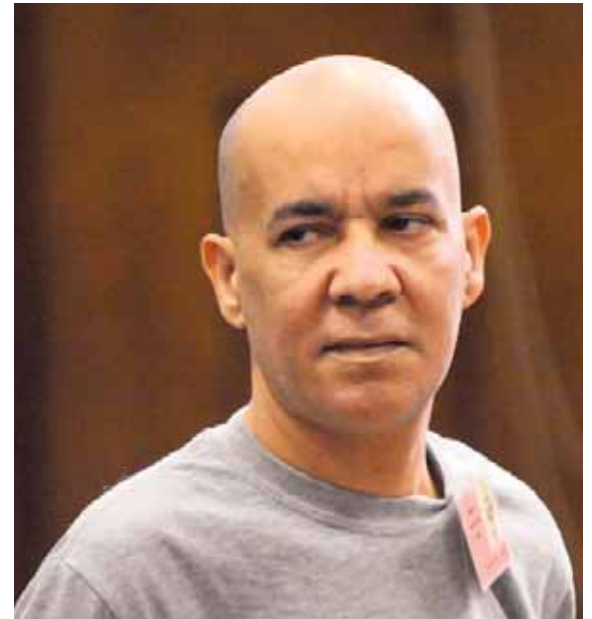
or his belongings. The defence says the admissions are the fictional ravings of a mentally ill man with a low IQ.

Hernandez, who was a teenage stock clerk, knew there were children in and out of the store, and Etan had been there countless times, the prosecutor said.

Illuzzi-Orbon said Hernandez saw Etan with a dollar and asked him to the basement. She said the motive was sexual, and Etan likely fought back. "The quickest and easiest way to shut him up and shut him up permanently was to choke him to death," she said.

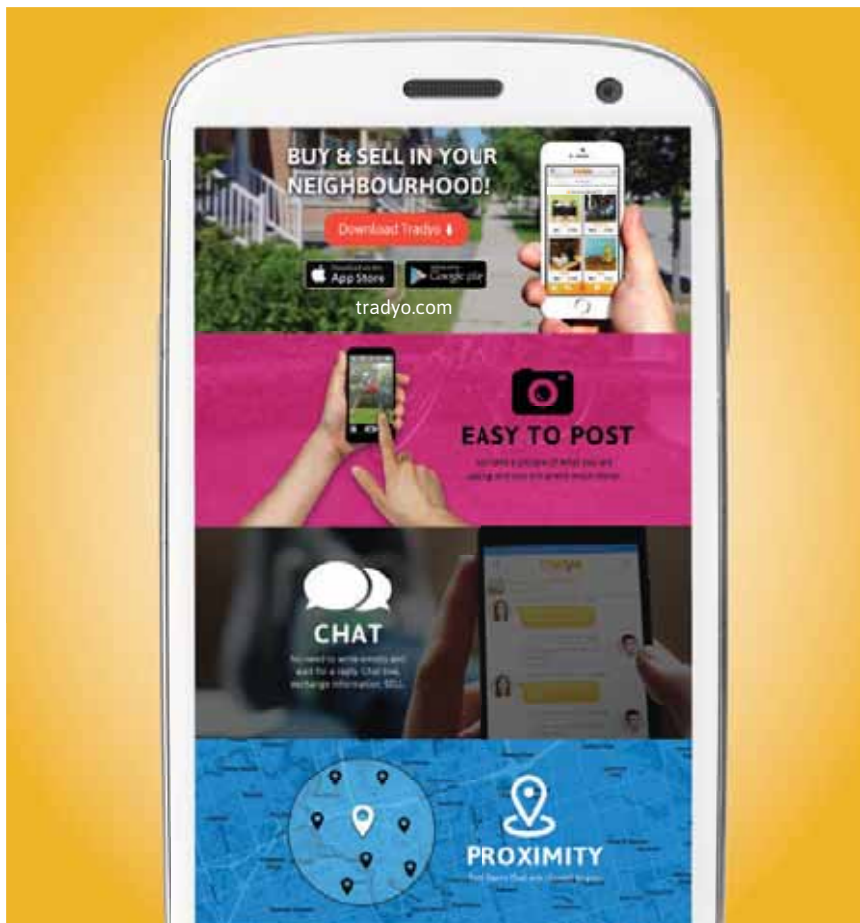
Illuzzi-Orbon said his first confession to a prayer group shortly after the boy disappeared was the most accurate. Prayer circle members testified that Hernandez made tearful admissions during a 1979 retreat that matched some of what he told authorities on video 33 years later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Accused Pedro Hernandez in a Manhattan court in 2012.

LOUIS LANZANO, POOL, FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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SOMALIA

Ten killed in attack on school ministry

Ten people were killed on Tuesday in an assault on the offices of Somalia's education ministry and seven attackers were also killed, said a government spokesman.

The fatalities include eight civilians and two soldiers, said spokesman Ridwan Haji Abdiweli.

Police later secured the Ministry of Higher Education office complex, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein, a senior police officer.

The attackers stormed the education ministry's offices after a suicide car bomber detonated his vehicle at the gate of the complex, opening the way for gunmen to enter, said Hussein.

The assault on the walled compound, which also houses other government ministries, is the latest attack by suspected Islamic extremists of al-Shabab who are maintaining a series of attacks in the capital on government targets and the African Union forces who are supporting the government.

Smoke was seen rising over the compound and security forces rushed to the scene and ambulances ferried wounded victims to hospitals.

This is not the first time al-Shabab has attacked the government's education ministry. A suicide car bomber detonated a truck at the education offices in 2011, killing at least 70, mostly students who were applying for scholarships to study in Turkey.

Al-Shabab often accuses the ministry of westernizing Somalia's education system.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Young girls known as Chibok Ambassadors, carry placards bearing the names of the girls kidnapped from the government secondary school in Chibok, a year ago, during a demonstration, in Abuja, Nigeria, Tuesday. SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hope fades for return of kidnapped girls

NIGERIA

New president can't promise to find them

They have been gone a year now, the hundreds of girls abducted by Islamic militants from their school in northeastern Nigeria.

And while the cry to "Bring Back Our Girls" remains a worldwide cause, on Tuesday the new Nigerian president would not repeat his predecessor's failed promise to find them — only that they won't be forgotten.

A solemn march was held to remember the 219 girls seized from their boarding school in Chibok by gunmen from the

Boko Haram extremist group. In Nigeria's capital of Abuja, 219 girls paraded in the streets, with each carrying a placard bearing the name of a kidnapping victim.

"We believe the girls are still alive," said Dr. Allan Manasseh, the brother of missing 18-year-old Maryamu Wavi, in an interview with The Associated Press.

But it was clear that hope has dwindled a year after the April 14-15 mass abduction.

President-elect Muhammadu Buhari said he must be honest about the prospects of getting the missing girls back to their families.

"We do not know if the Chibok girls can be rescued. Their whereabouts remain unknown," Buhari said in a statement. "As

much as I wish to, I cannot promise that we can find them."

The statement by Buhari, a former military ruler of Nigeria who was elected last month and takes over May 29, is a marked departure from President Goodluck Jonathan. After Jonathan's administration initially denied there had even been a kidnapping, he made repeated hollow promises that the girls would be rescued.

Campaigners have replaced the slogan of "Bring Back Our Girls — Now and Alive!" with a new one: "Never to be forgotten."

Still, some of the marchers Tuesday held the new leadership accountable.

"We are here to appeal to the

government to do better. We want our girls now and alive," said Solamiye Onifade, 16.

A vigil was held after sundown, with people holding candles and singing.

The gunmen initially seized 276 girls, but several dozen managed to escape as the militants transported them to the Sambisa Forest, with some clinging to the branches of trees from a moving open-back truck. Those still missing may have been split up. Witnesses said some girls were taken across the border into Cameroon.

Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, claimed they had converted to Islam and been married off to his fighters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Turkish president condemns Pope Francis

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says he is "condemning" Pope Francis for describing the slaughter of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Turks as "the first genocide of the 20th century" and for urging the international community to recognize it as such.

Turkey denies the killings that began 100 years ago were genocide and contends those who died were victims of civil war and unrest. Turkey also insists the death toll has been inflated.

It responded to the pope's words Sunday by recalling its ambassador to the Vatican and accusing Francis of spreading hatred and "unfounded claims." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivors say 400 migrants drowned in capsizing off Libya coast

Survivors of a capsized migrant boat off Libya have told the aid group Save the Children that an estimated 400 people are believed to have drowned.

Even before the survivors were interviewed, Italy's coast guard said it assumed that there were many dead given the size of the ship and that nine bodies had been found.

The coast guard had helped rescue some 144 people on Monday and immediately launched an air and sea search operation in hopes of finding others. No other survivors or bodies have been recovered. On Tuesday, Save the Children said its interviews with survivors who arrived in Reggio Calabria indicated there may have been 400 others who drowned.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA

Reserve deputy booked into jail on manslaughter charge

A volunteer law enforcement officer was booked into jail Tuesday on a manslaughter charge in the death of an Oklahoma man who was fatally shot as he lay on the ground at the officer's feet.

The sheriff's office has said Robert Bates, a 73-year-old insurance executive who was volunteering on an undercover operation, mistakenly pulled out his handgun instead of his stun gun and shot Eric Harris as the suspect

struggled with deputies.

It was the latest fatal shooting by a police officer to draw national attention after months of investigations and protests of other deaths in Ferguson, Missouri, New York City, South Carolina and elsewhere.

Bates was charged Monday with second-degree manslaughter involving "culpable negligence" for Harris' April 2 death. If convicted, he could face up to four years in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Robert Bates. TULSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

SIERRA LEONE

Schools re-open, nine months after Ebola forced their closure

Children in Sierra Leone returned to schools on Tuesday after staying at home for nine months because of the Ebola outbreak that has killed more than 10,000 mostly in West Africa.

More than 8,000 schools are to reopen for about 1.8 million students and the government and UN children's agency promise to check temperatures regularly and will promote hand washing to discourage the spread of Ebola in the schools.

"This marks a major step in the normalization of life in Sierra Leone," said Roeland Monasch, UNICEF Representative in Sierra Leone. "It is important that all children get into school including those who were out of school before the Ebola outbreak. Education for all is a key part of the recovery process for the country."

Sierra Leone's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology said it hopes that the year's academic curriculum can still

be covered. A small number of junior secondary schools have been open since late March for exams.

UNICEF Sierra Leone facilitated the training of 9,000 teachers in Ebola prevention, safety guidelines and psycho-social support, it said. The organization is also supplying 24,300 hand washing stations, enough for three in every school, as well as cleaning equipment to prepare school buildings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A statue of a British soldier broken off a base in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters deface colonial statuary

HISTORY

Pro-British memorials under attack in South Africa

Excrement thrown at the statue of British colonialist Cecil John Rhodes began a wave of vandalizing protests in South Africa.

Memorials to South Africa's colonial past were defaced by mainly young black protesters, as statues of British monarchs Queen Victoria and King George V were splashed with paint, in the cities of Port Elizabeth and Durban.

Founding fathers of Afrikaner nationalism were also targeted. In Pretoria, the memorial of 19th century Afrikaner leader Paul Kruger was twice daubed with bright green paint, while the statue of Marthinus Pretorius, who founded the capital city, was splashed with reddish brown paint, ac-

cording to local media reports.

The statue of Louis Botha, the president of the South African Union in the early 1900s, was smeared with red and blue paint outside parliament in Cape Town on the same day that the Rhodes sculpture was removed from its perch overlooking the University of Cape Town, after weeks of student protest.

In the Free State province, a statue of Boer General Jan Fick was splashed with red paint in the town named after him in 1883, Ficksburg. Vandals poured paint over Scottish-South African missionary Andrew Murray's statue in the Western Cape.

War memorials were also defaced. A bronze rider marking the Anglo-Boer War from 1899 to 1902, was toppled from his horse.

In the latest demonstration, vandals smeared paint on the figure of a young Mohandas Gandhi. Standing in the square in downtown Johannesburg named for Mahatma Gandhi,

“

Who's next?

Is the question that's gaining ground in South Africa following the string of protests.

the memorial marks the Indian anti-colonial leader's time in South Africa, where he formulated the principle of passive resistance. The protester, who smudged white paint on Gandhi's cloak, accused him of being racist during his time in the country.

Several people have been arrested and local authorities have spent thousands of dollars cleaning up the statues. The opposition party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, has come out in support of its members who have claimed responsibility for these acts of vandalism.

The string of protests has sparked a national debate about how to remember South Africa's troubled past.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF**Toy tester shutting down**

The Canadian Toy Testing Council, a volunteer organization that for decades has given parents independent advice on which toys are best for their children, is closing its doors effective the end of June. Under financial pressure for years, the council's board of directors voted last month to cease operations following an exhaustive but vain search for new sponsors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spectrum auction starts

Smaller players in Canada's wireless market will likely gain a little ground on the telecom companies through Ottawa's latest auctioning of spectrum, which began Tuesday, says an industry expert. The airwaves cover spectrum used to provide high-bandwidth functions like streaming video to smartphones but also for home Internet service in rural areas where wired service is unavailable.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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More Canadians cut cord: Report

TELEVISION

Another 95,000 households left last year, says tracking group

More Canadians are choosing to cancel their cable TV and satellite packages, and a new report suggests there's no sign of the migration slowing down. The Convergence Consulting Group says about 95,000 fewer households had a cable TV or satellite subscription at the end of 2014, compared with 2013. By those estimates, more than 21 per cent of Canadian households or 3.09 million homes did not have a cable TV or satellite TV subscription at the end of last year.

"These are very strong drops in TV," said Brahm Eiley, president of Convergence Consulting, a Toronto-based firm that collects extensive data on the North American cable and phone industries.

Growth in the Canadian TV market was steady from 2007 to 2011, with annual subscriber additions averaging about 220,000 households, Eiley said. But in 2013, a change in direction started to emerge, with the number of TV subscriptions falling by 13,000.

This year, Eiley expects the industry will lose another 97,000, as the shift continues at a stronger clip.

Several factors are at work



A new report says more Canadians are becoming comfortable watching content through other platforms and are cancelling their TV packages. NETFLIX INC./ THE CANADIAN PRESS-AP

+ SUBSCRIBER BASE

Canadians streaming to Netflix, report says

The report estimates Netflix subscribers grew to 3.9 million last year in Canada, an increase from three million in 2013.

The big telecoms have been fighting back, with competing services like Shomi from Rogers and Shaw, and CraveTV from Bell and its partners, in-

cluding Telus, Bell Aliant and Eastlink.

The study also found more Canadians are becoming comfortable watching content through other Internet platforms, whether it's through the web platforms of TV channels like CTV and CBC or illegal downloads through torrent websites.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

in the decline, Eiley suggested. Some younger households never signed up for TV services, which pulls down net subscriber numbers, while more

households that once paid for cable are putting their cash toward video-streaming services like Netflix instead.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PUBLISHING

Library group lists controversial books

At least one part of the publishing world has a diverse slate of authors: the books most likely to be pulled from library and school shelves.

The American Library Association on Monday released its annual list of the 10 books receiving the most complaints from parents, educators and others in the local community.

Sherman Alexie's prize-winning autobiographical novel of school life, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, ranked No. 1, followed by Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel *Persepolis* and the picture book about two male penguins raising a baby penguin, Peter Parnell's and Justin Richardson's *And Tango Makes Three*.

Others on the list include Toni Morrison's debut novel *The Bluest Eye*, Khaled Hosseini's million-selling novel

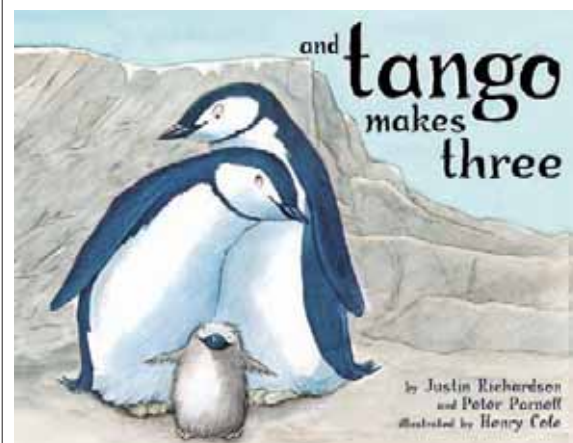
The Kite Runner and Jaycee Dugard's bestselling memoir about her kidnapping, *A Stolen Life*.

Several of the authors listed were either non-whites — even though just a small percentage of books released each year are by non-whites — or writers of books with gay, lesbian or transgender themes.

Reasons for books being challenged ranged from "cultural insensitivity" in Alexie's novel, in which the author draws upon his experiences as an American Indian at a virtually all-white high school, to "promotes the homosexual agenda" in *And Tango Makes Three*.

Common complaints include explicit sex, violence, references to drugs and alcohol and offensive language.

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The book *And Tango Makes Three* was one of the most "challenged" in schools and libraries, says the American Library Association. SIMON & SCHUSTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Patent trolls milk millions in U.S. through totally legal scam

FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS

Tech industry upset over laws that favour patent-holders

The same week that Alex Haro and Chris Hulls raised \$50 million US for their mobile app, Life360, the business partners got a letter. It said they had three days to pay licensing fees to a company they had never heard of because their app violated its patented technology.

Haro and Hulls traced the company, Advanced Ground Information Systems, to a coastal home in Jupiter, Fla., with a phone number that initially went to an anonymous voice-

mail. They couldn't find any employees on LinkedIn.

On the other side of that letter was Malcolm "Cap" Beyer Jr., a 76-year-old who had filed patents a decade ago on cellphone mapping. He said his attorney told him that he had a strong case against the startup, even though the general technology had been widely used by other tech companies for years. Beyer insists the mobile app's \$50 million US in fundraising had nothing to do with it.

In the end, a jury sided with Life360 on all counts — but not before Haro and Hulls shelled out nearly \$1.5 million in legal fees.

U.S. Congress is expected to take up legislation this year that would make it tougher for people like Beyer to claim patent infringement and put them on the hook for legal costs if they lose. The bill has become a top lobbying priority this year for the tech industry, which says it repeatedly fends off frivolous lawsuits because of poorly written software patents and laws that favour patent holders.

But lawmakers have repeatedly stumbled over the issue, which doesn't fall neatly along party lines. America's drug-makers, universities and trial lawyers claim that patents are the lifeblood of American invention and that the current bill goes too far.

The bill aims to toughen requirements when filing patent



Life360 co-founder and president Alex Haro, seen at his company headquarters in San Francisco on Tuesday, spent nearly \$1.5 million US in legal fees to defend their mobile app from a company they had never heard of. ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

challenges in court, such as limiting the amount of documentation that can be demanded before a judge makes an initial ruling. The bill also opens the door to a requirement that plaintiffs pay legal bills of the defendants if they lose.

Still opposing the bill, how-

ever, are pharmaceutical and biotech companies and universities that say the legislation would make it too tough and expensive for them to protect their patents.

The House will pick up the issue again this week with a hearing of its Judiciary Commit-

tee. Among those testifying is Keven Kramer, Yahoo's deputy legal counsel, who estimates the company has spent \$100 million US fighting bogus patent lawsuits since 2007.

Not wanting to pay for a protracted legal fight, defendants almost always settle even if they

think they'd win. Kramer calls it a vicious cycle — the more companies settle, the more lawsuits are filed.

"It's like a legal version of a mob protection racket," said Noah Tharan, a spokesman for the Internet Association, a coalition of web-based companies. "The tactics are different, but the end result is a good old-fashioned shakedown."

Beyer said in a phone interview last week that he's a defence contractor with more than a dozen employees, not "some vile animal that's filing lawsuits" for sport.

"We are simply just trying to enforce our patent," he said.

Beyer's lawyer, Mark Hannemann, denied allegations by Haro that the law firm used Beyer's patents to try to coerce Life360 into a large, quick settlement. He said the company had sought only \$3 million US in damages, "which is not a large amount in a patent case." He also alluded to possibly appealing the case, saying "there is, potentially, a long way to go in the process."

"The reason we have a patent system is so inventors like Mr. Beyer can protect their inventions," Hannemann wrote.

Haro said he thinks some kind of legislation is necessary, or else the U.S. economy will suffer. "It shouldn't be so expensive to defend yourself from a completely meritless lawsuit," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ TROLLS

Startups are main target

Businesses that buy up patents with the sole intention of filing lawsuits or demanding licensing fees from tech companies are generally referred to as patent trolls. They usually focus on technical areas like computer chips, cloud computing and wireless routers and particularly target startups around the time of their public offering.

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

"The micro-living pioneers are the so-called trailer trash"

Small is so chic these days.

There are trend pieces on laneway homes, Nordic cabin trailers, micro condos, and endless feature stories on "innovative" small living spaces that read like some kind of scientific discovery.

Please. Small space living is nothing new, not even in North America. And the original micro-living pioneers are the so-called trailer trash.

"If Bubbles was here I would give him the biggest hug," Cindy MacDonald tells me over the phone from her home in Calgary's Midfield Mobile Home Park.

"Trailer parks need to look out for one another!" the Trailer Park Boys star tweeted earlier this week and asked Mayor Naheed Nenshi to stop the city's plan to evict the park's residents in 2017, due to aging infrastructure.

MacDonald turned to Bubbles as an ironic champion after facing slurs like "trailer trash, whores and druggies," she said, thinking the beloved pop culture epitome of trailer trash might help turn the tide.

MacDonald should never have needed his PR help. Mobile homes are perfectly fine homes. They're important sources of affordable housing for seniors and young families, according to a 2007 B.C. study. And they're even on the rise: The 2011 census found movable dwellings (which include mobile homes) are up to 183,510

from 157,560 in 2001.

One new adopter is Isabella Mori, whose custom-built trailer home in Vancouver is so chic it's spawned a newspaper trend story. As if mobile homes weren't a century old.

The trend pieces are "hilarious," agreed Jake Fry, one of the leaders in Vancouver's small-house movement. "(It's) as if someone had stumbled upon an idea not yet utilized, and yet it's probably the most common thing in the world, these type of smaller living environments for families."

We can thank the exorbitant and rising cost of urban housing for adding fuel to the trend. As someone who lives in a 200-square-foot studio apartment, I get the appeal of a pared-down home. Fry even argued the younger generation is motivated to live in smaller spaces by a desire to focus on what they need to be happy, and not what they want, like the Blue Jays' new van-living pitcher Daniel Norris.

Mobile homes aren't a likely option for most cities looking to expand up instead of out.

And if and when MacDonald is evicted, it'll be amid the rise of the micro-condo in Toronto and the freight-container apartments in Vancouver — the higher-end evolution of an old search for housing that we can afford. Trailer-sized living, chic.

the big question

What's the 'best before' date with human eggs?

The standard storage period for human eggs is 10 years. Viability is not guaranteed but vitrification (flash-freezing, eggs at -196 C) has more success than slow cooling. Spermatozoa are easier to keep, it seems: normal pregnancies have resulted from 12-year-old samples. Even natural fertility isn't foolproof: sex every two to three days over a year only has an 80 per cent pregnancy rate for women under 40.

To binge or to bond, that is the question

SOCIAL DISCOURSE

Omar Moullem



I stopped watching *Orange* is the New Black the moment I learned my wife cheated on me ... by watching it with-out me.

We enjoyed the first season over a month, curled up on the couch every few nights. That's accelerated viewing to me, a TV grazer, but glacial to the Netflix Queen I married. She met me in the middle, until I left the country. We both did — it was a vacation. But for her, Europe was no match for Season 2.

What's that Milan Kundera quote? "Two people in love, alone, isolated from the world, that's beautiful. But what would they nourish

their intimate talk with?" Not television.

Binge-watching has destroyed the shared viewing experience, turning TV like *Marvel's Daredevil*, dumped on Netflix at midnight Friday, into an individualistic experience. On one hand, it allows you to catch more clues, nuances, and see the inner workings of a show. On the other hand, it dilutes the social pleasure of television discourse.

Even with social media allowing us to have worldwide simultaneous conversations about new shows, the chatter is trite and tends to be either bland praise or useless status updates of which episode users have reached.

Where there's discussion, it's completely out of sync. Imagine J.R. getting shot in the original *Dallas*, not on

the same night, but staggered over weeks or months. That explains why no Netflix or Amazon original programming has yet had a "Red Wedding" moment that infects your social spheres. Though it's not for a lack of trying.

Had *House of Cards* been offered in 13 courses instead of buffet style, then Francis Underwood throwing Zoe Barnes in front of the train would surely have made a splash at the water-cooler. But who's to say the person waiting to fill up would be ready for such a spoiler? (P.S.: Spoiler alert.)

Cards, like *Orange*, is another show I abandoned. With so many condensed highs and lows, I'd become desensitized and, well, bored.

Great television shows

build audiences over time, with cliffhangers that linger within you and require a social outlet that builds further word of mouth. We saw that with *Breaking Bad* and *True Detective*, and we're seeing it now with *Empire*, the FOX hip-hop opera that increased its audience with each episode until it wrapped up the season last month.

And perhaps we will see that with Netflix's next show in May, the Canadian thriller *Between*. It's rolling out over six weeks because of a three-way deal with Shomi and City. Tortured subscribers — and married people — might appreciate it in the long run.

Omar Moullem (@omar_aok) is based in Edmonton and edits the Yards. Social Discourse appears every other Wednesday.

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Of celebs and science

TELEVISION

You don't have to be an astrophysicist to get on Tyson's new show

Dean Lisk
Metro | Life

What would Kim Kardashian know about science? Neil deGrasse Tyson says the answer may surprise you.

"I would put her on StarTalk," says the popular scientist about his new National Geographic Channel series.

"What would we talk about? We would look at all the things she does. If she uses a hair straightener, there are chemicals in that hair straightener. If she bronzes her skin, we will talk about the chemicals. I will bring in a chemist to talk about cosmetics."

Having a conversation about science is at the heart of his series, premiering Monday, April 20 at 11 p.m. ET.

During each hour-long episode, Tyson sits down with a celebrity to explore how science and technology influence their lives.

"Maybe I was exaggerating a little bit, but if I could get (Kim Kardashian) on, I would do it," says Tyson.

Still, there is enough star power to tune in, with guests ranging from Star Trek alum

George Takei and director Christopher Nolan, to syndicated columnist Dan Savage and Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield.

"He was just as friendly and as smart and as charming as I had hoped and expected. He made a great guest," says Tyson about Hadfield. "I had not known that he also composes music. So on the StarTalk episode he sang for us the lullaby he composed for his kids while he was in space to sing them to sleep."

Tyson describes the process of choosing guests as "very crass and simple."

"It's: 'Are they famous?'

We want them as a guest. We created StarTalk to reach people who didn't know they liked science. Or people who knew they did not like science.

"You have to give them some other reason to participate in a science conversation. One way to do that is to comb the elements of pop culture and say, 'Are there singers, actors, directors, performers who have huge followings? Well, let's get them on StarTalk.' And, we will find ways science emanates from their profession — even in ways they might not have been aware of. We might find they have a little bit of geek in them."

Getting people in touch with their inner geek is not-

ing new for Tyson.

The director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Mu-

seum of Natural History previously hosted the PBS series NOVA ScienceNow and Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey.

He is also a popular scientific voice on social media, with more than 3.3 million Twitter followers.

"In the sciences, we are not generally rewarded for being sociable. Our reward comes from never leaving the laboratory," he says.

"So maybe people

thought I was odd.

"That said, I do think a lot about pop culture. So I am a little bit fluent in some aspects of pop culture and so that helps. Because, if there is someone who doesn't know anything about science, but they know everything about pop culture,

I have a way to have a conversation with them."

TYSON TALKS

On Canadian currency

"Congratulations on the five-dollar bill that you guys have," says Tyson, noting the hockey players on the bill were replaced by the Canadarm when plastic currency was introduced. "I use it in all my lectures. Canada decided they didn't need the hockey players on the back of the five dollar bill. That they didn't need to be reminded that they liked hockey up in Canada. So, they could use that currency real estate on the on the back of the five-dollar bill and they could put Chris Hadfield and the Canadarm on it."

On being named to People's sexiest list

"To be clear, that was 15 years ago, and probably 15 kilos ago," says Tyson. "It was 'sexiest astrophysicist alive.' But consider the category. I don't think that is a very competitive category."



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TOP SIX@6

Weeknights at 6 Kat counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

- 6 Taylor Swift Style
- 5 Shawn Mendes Something Big
- 4 Ellie Goulding Love Me Like You Do
- 3 Calvin Harris ft Ellie Goulding Outside
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The multiplicity of Tatiana Maslany

INTERVIEW

Orphan Black star talks about her big, happy clone family

Lisa Weidenfeld
Metro | New York

It's rare enough for an actor to earn endless critical acclaim for a performance on TV. But there's one star receiving that kind of praise for several performances, all in one show: Tatiana Maslany. She's been doing that for two seasons as a group of clones on Orphan Black, which returns for a third season on Saturday. The show manages to be, at various points, a satire of suburbia, a con artist action show and a horror movie with religious undertones. At the centre of it all is Maslany, anchoring a group of women who are learning to be siblings, but who are all so different from each other that it's easy to forget they're played by one woman.

What would you say is the theme of the new season?

It feels to me like there's something about the idea of the girls being stronger as a team. We see them separate at the beginning because they've all had these huge life changes and are in different worlds entirely because of every-

thing, but just by meeting, they've changed each other and they've discovered a family they now belong to. And I think that's been a huge thing for all of them.

Will they be separated again like they were last season, or will they be together more often this year? They're splintered again. It's exciting to see them in their own worlds and coming back together. They all have very separate lives, as much as they have come together. Cosima's sick and dealing with her mortality, so that's where her world picks up again, whereas Alison is in a loving relationship and very supported, and yet they have this secret that they're hiding from everyone, which is that they've buried a body in their garage. So there's all

these different things that they're contending with that are very separate.

You famously used different types of music to get into each clone character. Are you still doing that?

It changes all the time. It's less precious to those playlists now. It's a bit more fluid. It's more what I'm listening to at that moment. I trust that character to live in my body a little more than I did in the first season and second season. The process of getting them is different.

They also have met each other and there's a lot of crossover in terms of who they are. I think siblings tend to impact each other and kind of create each other, so there's definitely less of a, you are this and I am this.

PLOT LINES ONCE ENEMIES, NOW PARTNERS

Team Alison and Donnie

Though Alison, the iron-willed suburban mom, was often at odds with husband Donnie (Kristian Bruun) in earlier seasons once she learned he was observing her for the sinister Dyad Institute, the two have since united over a shared hatred of the company.

How is it working as a team with Alison and Donnie, as opposed to having them be at odds?

It's great. He's such an awesome actor, Kristian. He's such a great improviser and we have so much fun together, so it's such a joy to get to do a scene together.



That dynamic has always been one that has excited me and it's always kind of growing and changing.

Tatiana Maslany as clones Sarah Manning, left, and Cosima Niehaus.
HANDOUT

MUSIC

Digital and physical copies now neck and neck for sales

Revenue from digital music matched that from physical albums and discs for the first time in 2014, a global industry body said Tuesday.

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry's annual report said digital and physical sales each accounted for 46 per cent of the \$14.97 billion in global music revenues. Income from performance rights and synchronization revenue made up the rest.

The vinyl format now accounts for two per cent of revenues. Total revenue was down 0.4 per cent from 2013, but the group said the overall picture for the industry was positive. The federation said the rise



Pharrell's record company is probably feeling pretty good about how many copies of Happy were sold. GETTY IMAGES

of subscription music services was driving digital growth, and there was "substantial untapped potential for growth" in the paid-for streaming sector.

But IFPI chief executive Frances Moore said that the industry was missing out on revenue because some platforms including YouTube are exempt from

copyright laws applied to music-streaming services like Spotify—despite having many more users.

Moore said laws should be changed to fix this "value gap."

"It's not something the industry can fix, it's something that government can fix," she said.

YouTube said "we pay hundreds of millions of dollars to the music industry every year, have deals in place with hundreds of independent and major labels around the world, and provide rights-holders with tools to control their copyrighted work."

The report also named Pharrell Williams' Happy as the top single, selling 13.9 million copies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

HBO renews Veep, Silicon Valley

HBO said Monday it has renewed its political comedy Veep for a fifth season and its tech-savvy sitcom Silicon Valley for a third.

"Along with Game of Thrones and Last Week Tonight with John Oliver ... they give HBO a stellar Sunday night like no other," said the channel's programming president Michael Lombardo in a statement.

Created by Armando Iannucci, Veep portrays the political rise of a gaffe-prone American vice president played by Julia Louis-Dreyfus. Silicon Valley is a humorous take on the daily life of California computer geeks.

AFP

Crackle lets you stream TV the old-fashioned way

The Crackle video streaming service, known best for Jerry Seinfeld's motorized interview series with fellow comics, says it wants to be more like a traditional television network.

Starting next month, the website will run a constant stream of programming on a set schedule, its executives said Tuesday. Currently, people can click on Crackle's programming options and stream them whenever they want, an option that will be preserved.

Network chief Eric Berger said that while many Crackle users like the freedom to click on what they want, they miss the "serendipity" of being exposed to something new. AFP

Rotisserie chicken makes a great base for easy meals

DINNER

Poultry can be comfort food or diversified to global tastes

While developing recipes for using rotisserie chicken meat in a range of dishes, Eric Akis took into consideration the diverse palates of Canadians.

"They like international tastes, but they also like good old comfort food, so I've got anything from mac and cheese with chicken and peas, which would be great for a Tuesday supper, but then I've also done a Vietnamese-style chicken and rice noodle salad," he says.

"That's for those people that like Asian food and there's a lot of us, even if you're not Asian."

He also includes a section in his eighth cookbook, *The Great Rotisserie Chicken Cookbook*, on side dishes to serve with

rotisserie chicken.

Here is a recipe from the book using rotisserie chicken as an ingredient.

Chicken, avocado and tomato melts

This recipe is really simple. The sumptuous melts can be served with a simple green salad and a glass of lemonade or iced tea.

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 10 minutes

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Pour lime juice onto a wide plate.

2. Quarter avocado lengthwise, pull it apart, and discard pit. Remove peel from avocado. Cut each quarter piece of avocado lengthwise into 3 slices. Set avocado on plate and coat with lime juice.

3. Spread mayonnaise on one side of each slice of bread and arrange on baking sheet. Top each slice with arugula, 2 slices

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tsp lime juice
- 1 medium ripe avocado
- 4 slices French bread, each 1 inch thick
- 4 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 cups baby arugula or spinach
- 8 slices ripe tomato
- 1 1/3 cups shredded rotisserie chicken meat
- 1 cup grated plain or jalapeno-flavoured Monterey Jack cheese
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped fresh cilantro or green onions

of tomato, 3 slices of avocado and 1/3 cup of the chicken. Sprinkle with cheese.

4. Bake for 10 minutes, or until cheese is melted and bottom of bread is lightly toasted. Garnish with cilantro and serve.

Makes 4 servings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Chicken, avocado and tomato melts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WINE Chianti makes a comeback

LIQUID ASSETS

Peter Rockwell

@therealwineguy



While you should never judge a wine by the design of its label, the growing gaggle of millennial-aged wine fans is fuelling a trend in retro wine packaging.

Baby Boomers see the return of classic designs as a welcome sip down memory lane, especially when it comes to the Italian fiasco.

Calling Chianti home, it's a round bottle kept upright by an elaborate straw basket that once emptied was often turned into a candle holder back in the day.

A variety of styles are available across the country, with the juicy 2013 Leonardo Chianti (\$13-\$19.99) making a perfect partner with spaghetti and meatballs or a slice of takeout pizza. PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



MEAL FOUNDATION

Make the most of cooked birds

WORD OF MOUTH

Theresa Albert

myfriendinfood.com



A lot of people still want to make some element of the meal. So whether they've made their own chicken or bought one, they still want to do that side dish to serve with it.

Eric Akis, *The Great Rotisserie Chicken Cookbook*

"Oh my darling, you have such a way with rotisserie chicken." Not as romantic as having a way with words but in this day and age, much more useful.

The new book, *The Great Rotisserie Chicken Cookbook* by Eric Akis, outlines how to cook a bird yourself. But if you are like most of us, you will want to make use of the variety of ways to use that lifesaver of a bird cooked by the grocer.

There are a few things to watch out for when picking one up:

- **Date and time prepared.** These babies can dry out on the shelf or be left too long at an unsafe temperature.

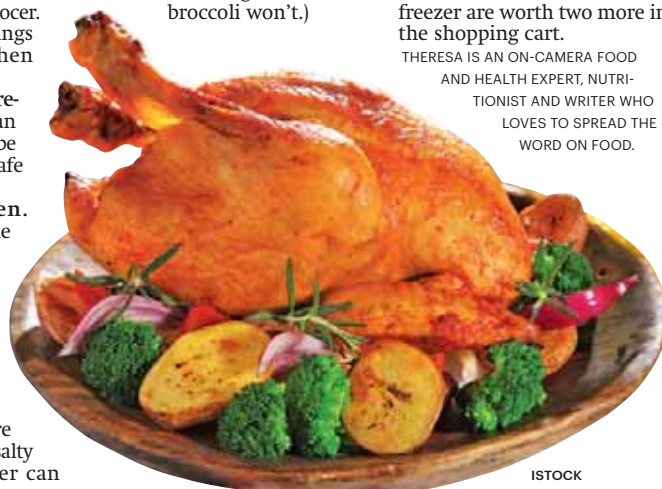
- **Size of chicken.** Don't be fooled by the cheaper grocer unless you also know the size. Since most chickens are sold this way, breeders are being asked to grow 'em smaller to compete.

- **Seasonings.** There is no way around how salty your roasted lifesaver can

be so you will have to make sure the rest of the day is managed wisely. (Soy sauce at lunch, roasted chicken at dinner and popcorn for snack is going to have your blood pressure soaring. But steamed broccoli won't.)

- **Toss the bones and veggie scraps into a freezer bag when you are done picking it for all it is worth.** Because it is worth more when you simmer the bones for soup broth and two bird carcasses in the freezer are worth two more in the shopping cart.

THERESA IS AN ON-CAMERA FOOD AND HEALTH EXPERT, NUTRITIONIST AND WRITER WHO LOVES TO SPREAD THE WORD ON FOOD.



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GT models shown



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Tech mixes with easygoing style



THE CHECKLIST 2016 ACURA ILX

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, FWD, entry-level luxury compact sedan
Engines (hp/torque). 2.4-litre turbocharged I4 (201)
Transmissions. Eight-speed DSG automatic
Price. Base/as-tested price (incl. destination). \$31,619/\$36,019

POINTS

- Entry-level Acura nameplate based on the Honda Civic platform.
- Major mid-cycle updates for model year 2016.
- 2.4-litre four and eight-speed automatic from TLX becomes sole powertrain option.



COOL FEATURES

- AcuraWatch suite of safety and driver-assist technologies is standard.
- Standard Bluetooth, text message, and Siri Eyes Free.
- Available iPhone navigation app connectivity, and AcuraLink, for more smart-phone-based functions.

MARKET POSITION

- Targeted at younger and upwardly mobile buyers.
- For buyers who prioritize premium cache, looks, and technology.
- Aims to please and differentiate with higher levels of safety and connectivity than its peers.

REVIEW

Acura ILX stays fresh via powertrain, infotainment

Jil McIntosh
For Metro

Acura created the ILX back in 2013 to get young upwardly mobile buyers into the Acura family. The intent was that they would stay with Acura, and buy bigger and more expensive ones as they moved up the food chain.

It hasn't happened as Acura would have liked, especially in the U.S., which has never embraced the concept of an entry-level and Civic-based Acura, as we have in Canada.

That's not to say Acura ILX isn't a decent ride. Sometimes we just have to overlook a vehicle's intended marketing mission and just take a keen look at the vehicle itself. And when you do that here, you find a really sweet, small sports sedan, especially when you consider all the new bits that have been bestowed on the vehicle for 2016, to mark its first major mid-cycle makeover.

The biggest new bits are the 2.4-litre I4 engine and eight-speed "dual clutch" automatic transmission, lifted from its immediate bigger sibling, the TLX. This gives the small Acura 201 horses, over 50 more than last year. The engine likes to

rev and the transmission loves to shift, and does so expertly and quickly, so it's a great match. It doesn't have that effortless power feel, however, of torque-rich V6s and turbo-charged fours.

But the ILX can go around a corner with panache. It turns easily and flatly, and instils a lot of confidence in the driver. That driver would have more fun if there were a bit more steering feel, but other than that, this is a fun ride.

Back seat room, and interior room generally, are not up to "mid-size" standards. If you need such space, the mid-size mainstream sedans beckon, which can be had for about the same price of this "compact" near-luxury sedan.

This being 2015, a vehicle needs more than just space and pace to succeed — it needs lots of acronyms in the safety department, and lots of connectivity in the dashboard. We don't have the space to go through the entire laundry list, but suffice to say Acura wants ILX to be a segment leader in this regard.

Some highlights, which are either standard or optionally available, include: long-range engine starter, GPS-linked automatic climate control, next-generation AcuraLink (cloud-based connected car system), Siri Eyes Free (standard across the board), rain-sensing wipers, and the AcuraWatch suite of driver assist technologies, which includes adaptive cruise, lane keeping assist, rear camera, and collision mitigation.

THE COMPETITION



Audi A3
Base price: \$33,695



Mercedes-Benz CLA 250
Base price: \$36,595



Buick Verano
Base price: \$25,390

SHOPPING

Prices can drop when new cars revealed

When auto companies roll out exciting new models like they did at the recent New York auto show, the unveilings can sometimes push down the price of cars already on sale.

Usually the immediate impact is small, according to industry analysts, but the deals can get a whole lot better once the new models hit the showrooms and the automakers try to clear the old models from dealer lots. And the extent of the impact depends on whether the latest models are significantly more appealing than

the old ones because of new features or styling changes.

Last week in New York, Honda unveiled a new Civic compact that looks like a European sports car, and Chevrolet showed off a new Malibu mid-size car that looks like a coupe, with more legroom better gas mileage and other features that one-up the current model. Analysts say it's too early to tell if prices will drop on the current Civics and Malibus.

Car buyers recognize the value when there's a major redesign if it's feature-rich, said

Alec Gutierrez, senior analyst with Kelley Blue Book.

Whether or not prices immediately fall on existing models varies by whether media coverage of the new model is unexpectedly positive or negative, and by how well automakers manage their inventories during the year, said David Wagner, senior manager for analytics with the NADA Used Car Guide.

If publicity is good and customers are excited, then values on outgoing models can fall. But the decline usually is

small, around two or three per cent in the first several weeks of media coverage.

Wagner saw prices fall a small amount after recent redesigns of the Honda Accord, Ford Mustang and Ford F-150 pickup truck, all of which made great improvements or added features to the vehicles.

In late summer and early fall, all automakers discount outgoing models to clear room on dealer lots for new models. Typically, those discounts run two to four per cent off the sticker price. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Lower prices can entice consumers to buy an outgoing model even if the new one is much better. ISTOCK

NEW TECH

Glasses to give clear view

Mini's new Augmented Vision glasses could potentially eliminate blind spots inside a car by making them seemingly transparent. Put them on while behind the wheel, turn your head left or right and any obstacle to a clear view, such as the car's A Pillar or that blind spot over the shoulder when reverse parking, will seemingly disappear. AFP



Proper washer fluid does a better job of cleaning a windshield than plain water.

JIL MCINTOSH / FOR METRO

A clean windshield fuels safety

MAINTENANCE

Wiper blades should be replaced about every 6 months

Jil McIntosh
For Metro

Keeping your windshield clean isn't just about the vehicle looking good. Visibility is essential to safety, which means wiper blades need to be in top condition and a driver's windshield washer fluid bottle should be full.

"If people replace their wiper blades every six to nine months, they will enjoy better visibility," says Ron Fausnight, group technical manager of chemicals and appearance products for ITW Global Brands, which markets Rain-X. "Wiper blades will deteriorate from use, especially if there's a lot of gritty material on the glass."

Guck can form on the windshield even on dry, sunny days. Insects and bird droppings are the most noticeable culprits, but it can also include sticky substances kicked up off the asphalt by other vehicles: dust and grime, oil, and even the thin film of rubber that builds up on the road from the thousands of tires driving over it.

If the windshield is dry, it should always be moistened with the washers before the

wipers are turned on. Not only is that grime hard on the rubber, but it can potentially scratch the glass.

When you wash your car, it's common for minerals in the water to dry on the windshield, causing spots. It can be difficult to remove these dried-on deposits and a glass cleaner may need to be used to remove them.

Spray-on or wipe-on water repellents leave a thin film of silicon on the glass that causes the water to bead up and flow away, instead of drying up and leaving the minerals behind.

Windshield wipers are actually squeegees, and while they look like thin blades, a peek under magnification reveals their edges are square. One corner of this square edge drags across the glass when the wipers move in one direction, and then the blade is flipped and the other corner does the job when the wiper goes the other way. This constant push-pull motion does an excellent job of keeping the windshield clear when it's raining, but it's also why the blades eventually wear out.

All types of washer fluid will clean a windshield, but summer-specific ones do a better job of removing bugs and grime, while winter fluid is less likely to freeze.

Plain water shouldn't be used to clean a windshield, since it doesn't clean as well and can damage the motor if there's any left in the system when cold weather returns.

+ WHEN TO REPLACE WIPERS

Streaks mean replacement

Wiper blades should be replaced any time they start to leave streaks on the windshield, if the rubber starts to tear, or if they continually "chatter" when wiping on wet glass.

Because the rear window on an SUV or hatchback gets so grimy, this wiper can wear fairly quickly. Replace it promptly to avoid scratching the glass. Many vehicles have two different sized front blades, depending on the windshield size and shape, to do the best job of cleaning. JIL MCINTOSH





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ELECTRIC CARS

Virgin to join e-car market

Demonstrating that the future is not just in the hands of big-name automakers, Richard Branson says his Virgin empire has "teams of people" working on electric cars. Virgin is already a supporter of the Formula E (for electric) racing championship.

"So you never know," Branson told Bloomberg News Service, "you may find Virgin competing ... in the car business, as we do in the space business."



TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

Virgin heats up e-cars competition

SOLAR POWER

Glow-in-dark car rides

Nissan recently drove its first glow-in-the-dark electric Leaf sedan on the world's first luminous "smart" highway near Oss, Netherlands. The luminous Leaf was put on the solar-powered highway to announce Nissan EV sales increased by 313 per cent across the Netherlands last year and to showcase how many of its customers are powering their cars from solar energy.



MILEAGE

Leaf drivers recorded one billion kilometres driven worldwide

Automaker Nissan says that owners of its Leaf plug-in electric mid-size sedan have recorded one billion kilometres driven worldwide, saving more than 180 million kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions in the process. Over that vast distance, the Nissan Leaf has reportedly become the best-selling electric vehicle in history.



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Shell team working on concept car



Automotive designer Gordon Murray is famous for creating the McLaren F1. SHELL

DESIGN

Collaboration to produce 'ultra' city car

One of the world's biggest oil and gas companies is collaborating with Gordon Murray — one of the world's most respected automotive designers — on a project exploring the future of personal mobility.

Dubbed Project M, the collaboration aims to design, develop and build an ultra-efficient, ultra-compact city car, albeit one that is powered by a traditional internal combustion engine.

Shell describes the car, which will be unveiled in concept form in November, as a simple global city car that will "work brilliantly whether you are in a city where mass-motoring is a relatively new thing or already a century old."

For Murray, the project is clearly a chance to further his own work into the topic. In 2010, he unveiled something called the T25, an ingenious ultra-compact city car that sat three in a triangular formation and which used a revolutionary manufacturing process that reduced weight and materials without compromising strength or rigidity.

The iStream system, as it was called, also allowed the basic three-seat platform to take on many different forms and shapes based on the monitoring need, meaning that the creation of a whole range of

different cars would be simple and affordable.

Although this is now officially a Shell project, it appears that it shares many elements with the T25.

Of the project, Murray himself says it's a chance to explore future personal mobility needs. "I think the Shell car is really important," says Murray.

"We can look to the future and see where we should be going not just with materials but in terms of design philosophy and other technologies and take a holistic look at where the future car is going," he adds.

The project is a long way from Formula One and supercars, the areas of motoring where Murray has legendary status. During his three years working on the McLaren Formula One team, the company won the driver's world championship and the constructor's world championship three times in a row.

Afterwards Murray turned his attention to the road and designed the McLaren F1 – the pioneering 200 miles per hour-plus supercar which stood unchallenged until the creation of the Bugatti Veyron — and followed it up with the McLaren Mercedes SLR.

However, one element of the new project might feel familiar indeed to Murray. Osamu Goto, who designed the Honda Formula One engines that powered those McLaren cars to victory, is also involved in the project as the car's engine designer.

AUTO NEWS HIGH BIDDING ON VANITY PLATES IN MIDDLE EAST



In Qatar, a personalized plate is a status symbol. ISTOCK

Qataris spend millions on personalized plates

Super-rich Qataris have splashed out millions on “fancy” car number plates in an online auction run by the interior ministry of the energy-rich state. More than 4.2 million Qatari riyals (\$1.1 million) had been pledged on just 24 separate and unique car registration numbers.

In Dubai, owning a distinct number plate has become

a desirable status symbol for Qataris to publicly show off their wealth. Most in demand are those with fewer numbers — most ordinary Qatari registration plates have six figures — repeated digits, or those in sequence. A previous auction for “fancy vehicle numbers” at the end of last year saw one driver bid a reported 200 million riyals (almost \$55 million) for the number plate 333355. AFP

[illegible]

Chevrolet Cruz boasts space

USED VEHICLE

Odours, leaks, may plague 2011 to 2014 models

Replacing the Cobalt and competing with the Honda Civic, Hyundai Elantra, Ford Focus and Toyota Corolla, the Chevrolet Cruze hit the Canadian market for model year 2011, riding a new European-based platform and hoping to attract customers with top-notch efficiency, leading warranty coverage and overall value. With plenty of selection, the big-for-its-class Cruze should make an ideal used sedan for a shopper after plenty of space and a pleasant all-around driving experience.

On board, smell for any unpleasant odours, such as a burnt sugar smell, which could indicate a coolant leak under the hood, or in the vehicle's heater core, as well as earthy or 'dirty-sock' odours — resulting from moisture buildup in the HVAC system causing mildew.

Blocked moisture drain tubes



may be to blame for the latter issue, and your Chevrolet dealer may offer a mould/mildew cleaning kit to remedy the problem. If you detect any unpleasant smells, have a mechanic check the cool-

ing system and HVAC system for leaks.

Check the Cruze's cooling system pressure cap for signs of coolant leakage, which will require a new, revised cap to remedy.

Visit the highway and get the Cruze up to speed, turning the steering wheel slightly to "weave" where appropriate.

A "notchy" or "sticky" feel to the steering system could indi-

cate a problem that requires further investigation. Most owners reporting this issue find it occurs at low mileage and have it fixed under warranty.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Features

Look for OnStar, heated seats, a sunroof, automatic lights, and above-average at-hand storage facilities for keeping organized on the move. A full suite of advanced safety systems is on board, too.

Engines

Most copies of the Cruze in the used market will pack a 1.4-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine, or a 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine. Six-speed transmissions in either automatic or manual were available.

The verdict

Cruze isn't the obvious choice as the most reliable used compact sedan, though owners did love it for comfort and refinement. Opt for as new a model you can afford, seeking to maximize protection from the Cruze's warranty, where possible. A pre-purchase inspection at a Chevrolet dealer should be considered mandatory.

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*Limited time finance offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit based on a new and unregistered 2015 Jetta 2.0L Trendline base model with 5-speed manual transmission. Base MSRP of \$16,595, including \$1,605 freight and PDI, financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals 78 bi-weekly payments starting from \$188. \$952 down payment due at signing. Cost of borrowing is \$0 for a total obligation of \$15,595 (price after \$1,000 discount). PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. **\$1,000 discount on MSRP available on cash purchase, finance or lease of new and unregistered 2015 Jetta 2.0L Trendline models. Discount varies by model. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer not shown in this ad. †Lease payments of \$150 on the Jetta must be made on a monthly basis and cannot be made bi-weekly. Bi-weekly payment amount shown includes \$1,000 discount. Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2015 Jetta 2.0L Trendline base model with 5-speed manual transmission. \$1,605 freight and PDI included in monthly payment. 48-month term at 1.9% APR. \$1,298 down payment, \$200 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation: \$8,474. 64,000-kilometre allowance; charge of \$0.15/km for excess kilometres. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. ‡2015 Volkswagen Jetta 4 DR FWD received a 5-star overall rating. Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (safercar.gov). Crash performance was based on a U.S.-equipped vehicle. Some features on that model may be optional or not available in Canada. §The 2015 Jetta was awarded a Top Safety Pick from the IIHS (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety). To qualify for a Top Safety Pick, a vehicle must earn good ratings in the moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraint tests, as well as a good or acceptable rating in the small overlap front test. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers end April 30, 2015 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Model shown: 2015 Jetta 1.8T Highline, \$25,990. Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only and may include optional equipment. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Das Auto & Design" and "Jetta" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2015 Volkswagen Canada.

‘We didn’t deserve that win’

QMJHL PLAYOFFS

Mooseheads fail to take stranglehold against Cats



Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

This time the Moncton Wildcats claimed the momentum from the first faceoff of the night.

Defenceman Jacob Sweeney scored just 25 seconds after the puck dropped Tuesday on Game 3 to give the Wildcats an early 1-0 lead, helping them skate away with a 4-3 win, much to the dismay of 7,596 rowdy fans at the Scotiabank Centre in Halifax.

Moncton maintained that one-goal lead through most of the game — with the exception of a brief moment in the third period when it was all tied up — to claim its first win of this QMJHL playoff series.

Momentum shifted in favour of Moncton on the ice after the Wildcats lost two straight in their home rink over the weekend, but Halifax still has the slight 2-1 edge in the best-of-seven competition.

“We were right there in the third, (with) a 3-3 tie,” Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme said. “It was one shot that made the difference.”

But Ducharme said his Herd “could have done more to deserve it.”

GAME 3 In Halifax

4	3
WILDCATS	HERD

Despite the chants of “Go Moose Go” from the crowd, Russian import Ivan Barbashev put the Wildcats up 2-0 on a power play less than six minutes into the game, one-timing it past Halifax goaltender Eric Brassard.

Persistence paid off when the Herd had its own man-advantage midway through the opening frame. Danny Moynihan was in the right spot out front to pick up the pass from Nikolaj Ehlers and put Halifax on the scoreboard.

But Barbashev came through again on the power play to give Moncton a 3-1 lead heading into intermission.

It was Winnipeg Jets draft pick Ehlers to get Halifax back into the game with two straight goals.

His first came on a Herd power play at 7:39 in the second, when he skated behind the Moncton net and put a pretty shot past netminder Alex Dubeau.

His second was just over four minutes into the final frame, when he took a feed from Moynihan while left alone out front and shot into an open net to even the score.

But that’s all the Moose would manage.

Wildcats D-man Dominic-Talbot Tassi scored the game-



Halifax Mooseheads winger Timo Meier, left, jockeys for position with Moncton Wildcats defenceman Jacob Sweeney during Game 3 of their second-round QMJHL playoff series at the Scotiabank Centre on Tuesday night. JEFF HARPER/METRO

winner on yet another Moncton power play, sending the puck through traffic at 4:59 for the win. Halifax pulled Brassard but was unable to pull off another goal.

Brassard made 18 saves, including on a penalty shot from Barbashev in the second period, while Dubeau stopped 26 shots. Barbashev was first star, Ehlers second star and Tassi

third star of the game.

“We didn’t deserve that win,” Ehlers agreed with his coach.

The Herd will have another chance at home Wednesday

night, before heading back to New Brunswick for Game 5.

“We want to go out there, and play our game and work hard,” Ehlers said, “and have a better start than today.”

We need to talk.

RICK HOWE 9am-1pm

SHELDON MacLEOD 2pm-6pm

News 95.7
News.Talk.Sports.

‘Razor’ makes the cut

Cole Harbour native Nathan MacKinnon has been confirmed for the roster that will compete at the 2015 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship next month in the Czech Republic.

Hockey Canada announced Tuesday its first 19 players for Canada's National Men's Team, which will face off for international bragging rights May 1-17 in Prague and Ostrava.

The Canadian contingent will consist of up to 25 players not participating in NHL playoffs, including MacKinnon, who is currently a forward for the Colorado Avalanche and played for the Halifax Mooseheads during his major junior career.

"This group includes a fantastic mix of youth and experience," Team Canada general manager Jim Nill said in a news release. "These 19 players are ready to get over to Europe and wear the red and white."

MacKinnon, 19, also played at last year's world championship, finishing fifth in Belarus. Canada opens play this year May 1 against Latvia, and will also take on Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland in the preliminary round.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

No clear favourite to win Stanley Cup

NHL

New blood aplenty among post-season contenders

In the final weeks of the regular season, New York Rangers coach Alain Vigneault talked to plenty of colleagues around the NHL and came away with a consensus about these Stanley Cup playoffs.

"Everybody's sort of got the same theme: Pick your poison," Vigneault said recently at Madison Square Garden. "Any one of the 16 teams that gets in has really a legitimate chance of winning the Cup, they do. There's so little separating teams."

The defending-champion Los Angeles Kings and defending Presidents' Trophy-winning Boston Bruins didn't make it. There are seven new teams going for the Cup in 2015 that didn't qualify a year ago.

Put it all together and this is the most wide-open, unpredictable NHL post-season in recent history.

"Can you sit here and honestly pick the four teams that are going to play in the conference finals? I can't," St. Louis



Justin Williams of the Los Angeles Kings celebrates with the Stanley Cup after the Kings 3-2 double overtime victory against the New York Rangers in 2014. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Blues coach Ken Hitchcock said last month in Toronto. "This is the first time in my life I can't honestly pick anybody that you'd say, 'Man this team is for sure a lock,' because it's just so close."

Montreal Canadiens forward Brendan Gallagher called it "nuts."

"It's pretty hard to believe, actually," he said. "It's great for the league; it's great for the game."

“The first round is probably going to feel like a conference final, every single matchup.”

Chicago Blackhawks defenceman Niklas Hjalmarsson

hawks have to be considered one of the favourites, especially given their wealth of depth and playoff experience. But Chicago doesn't even have home ice in the first round against the Nashville Predators, and those teams are part of a brutal Central Division bracket with the Blues and red-hot Minnesota Wild.

"The way Minnesota's playing now, they can knock out any team in the league," Blackhawks defenceman Niklas Hjalmarsson told reporters in Chicago last week.

"You look at the route to the Stanley Cup and the teams, it seems like the league's more balanced than it's been in a long, long time," Canadiens defenceman P.K. Subban said. "Everybody's got a chance."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Celtics edge Raptors

Jae Crowder hit an off-balance fall-away from deep on the right wing with .8 seconds left, lifting Boston to a 95-93 win over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday that secured the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference for the Celtics.

Kyle Lowry had 16 points for the Raptors, who are locked into the fourth seed and will face Washington.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays streak continues

Steven Souza Jr. homered and later scored the winning run on a sacrifice fly to give the Tampa Bay Rays a 3-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday night at Rogers Centre.

Tampa Bay (5-3) has won four games in a row.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jurors fail to reach verdict again in Aaron Hernandez murder trial

After six days of deliberating, jurors went home Tuesday without reaching a verdict in the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez, who is accused of killing the man dating his fiancée's sister. Hernandez has pleaded not guilty in the killing of Odin Lloyd in June 2013. Testimony in the case lasted for 9 weeks, and deliberations have stretched on for 34 hours.

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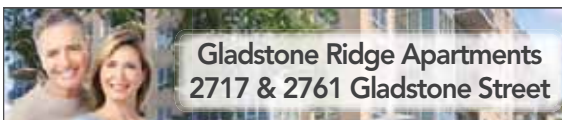
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RECIPE Welcome spring with Sweet 'n' Sour Chicken Meatballs with Rice

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com

Twitter: @rosereisman



Ready in 50 minutes
Serves six

Directions

1. In a bowl, combine the chicken, onion, ketchup, bread crumbs, egg, salt and pepper and mix well. With wet hands, form the meatballs, using about 1 Tbsp of the mixture for each. Place on a plate and set aside.

2. In large saucepan, heat the vegetable oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and onion and cook just until softened, about 3 minutes. Add the bell peppers and cook for another 4 minutes. Add the tomato and pineapple juices, chili sauce, brown sugar, cornstarch and meatballs. Cover, reduce the heat and simmer for 25 minutes, or until the meatballs are cooked through.

3. Meanwhile, bring the rice and water to a boil, then cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and let stand for 10 minutes, covered.

4. Serve the meatballs and sauce over the rice. Garnish with pineapple and parsley.

Ingredients

- 12 oz ground chicken
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion



- 2 Tbsp ketchup
- 5 Tbsp seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup diced green bell pepper
- 1 1/2 cups tomato juice
- 2 cups pineapple juice
- 1/2 cup sweet chili sauce (Heinz)
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 1 cup white rice
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup diced pineapple (fresh or canned)
- 3 Tbsp chopped parsley

Nutrition per serving

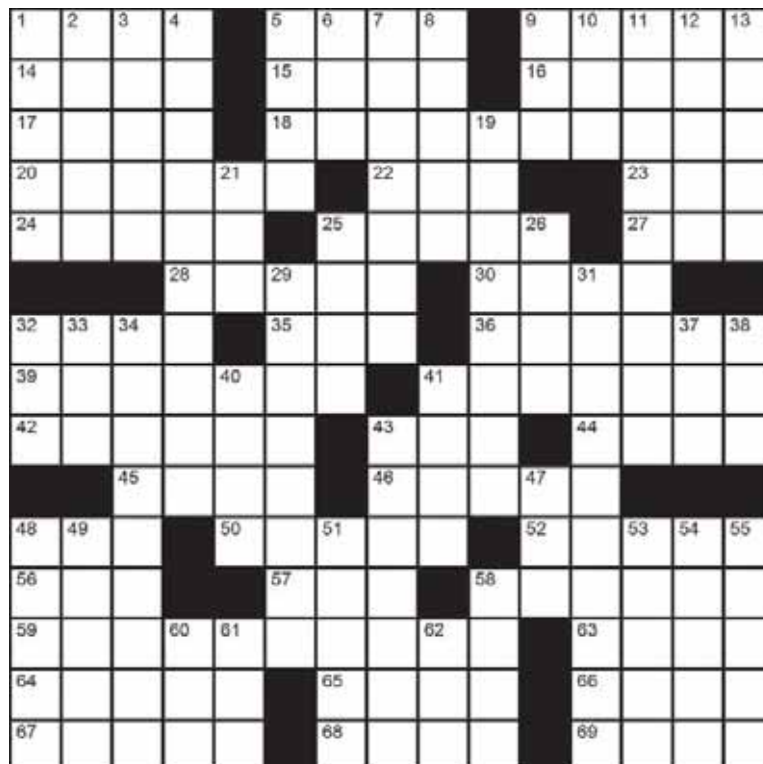
- Calories 377 • Protein 15 grams
- Carbohydrates 61 g • Fibre 3 g
- Total fat 7.7 g • Saturated fat 1.9 g
- Cholesterol 73 mg • Sodium 429 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ANSWERS ONLINE
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ACROSS

- Deodorant's pal
- Compass/ruler set, briefly
- Oversight
- Currency in Oman
- 161 in ancient Rome
- Acrylic material
- Bear constellation
- Position for recently retired Canadian basketball star Steve Nash: 2 wds.
- Bungled, with Up
- Homer Simpson's sound!
- Corp. leader
- Literary genre
- City of Switzerland
- Be off
- Jittery, ___ ease
- Cut, as wood
- Jeanne ___
- Shana ___ The Sweetest Dark author
- Menswear accessory, variantly: 2 wds.
- Get to the point
- "Toy Soldiers" singer who also has a self-titled 'Kitchen' tune
- Hedy of Hollywood
- Daze
- Door fastener
- Acreage
- Quaintly bless with oil
- Greek/alphabet's

- 21st letter
- Quick bite
- Map detail
- Literary contraction
- Chop from the team
- Marilyn Monroe's hair hue
- Scotiabank ___ (Calgary entertainment/sports venue)
- T. ___ Price (Investment firm)
- Mr. Reznor of rock
- Press
- Pare
- Famous violin, commonly
- Courtroom cry!

69. She-chickens

DOWN

- Donald of "The Celebrity Apprentice"
- Broadcaster
- Cowboy's rope
- Ontario: Chatham-Kent, the '___ Cap-ital of Canada'

- Crime-fighting force in Batman's domain [acronym]
- "Turn to Stone" gr.
- Get rusty
- Ancient king of Crete
- Account
- Indonesia's ___ Islands

- Newfoundland town on the Avalon Peninsula
- More painful
- Ewoks' forest moon home
- Some performers feel most at home on it: 2 wds.
- Conger or Moray
- Jennifer's "Dirty Dancing" (1987) role
- Animal den
- Paul ___ Canadian host of HGTV's "Disaster Decks"
- Toronto Raptors slogan: 3 wds.
- Computer connection, e.g.
- Paraguay/Brazil border river
- It's what's left
- "That '70s Show" star ...his initials-sharers
- Pen's cover
- Cholera
- Monastery man
- Industrious building
- Rapper, ___ Wayne
- Nuisances
- Life pumper
- TV feed's sound
- Nap noisily
- ___ Hawkins Singers hit: "Oh Happy Day"
- Abounds
- Mercedes-___
- Crime lab stuff
- Company name abbr.
- Curly's pal

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
It seems you can't put a foot wrong at the moment but you know from long experience not to take things like that for granted. Enjoy life but watch where you tread.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You have been worrying too much about money lately but as of today your fears should subside a little. The moment you stop worrying about your cash flow is the moment it will start getting better.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Venus in your sign makes this a good time for affairs of the heart and anything of an artistic or creative nature, but Saturn is also strong at the moment, which means you must not lose your grip on reality.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This could be a special time for you. Like all Cancerians you want to do things for other people, to make the world a better place, and your chance to do so will arrive very soon.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Listen carefully to what friends and colleagues tell you today — and, if what they tell you makes sense, act on it immediately. And don't be so suspicious.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Career matters are under favourable stars at the moment, so be positive. Attitude is everything: if colleagues and employers sense that you are serious about your aims then they will be serious about them as well.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A task you were not looking forward to won't be as bad as you thought it would be — in fact, once you get going it may be enjoyable. That's good, because the more you smile the happier those around you will be as well.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Money isn't everything but it's still important and what happens today will remind you that you cannot afford to be too relaxed about what you own and earn. You have mouths to feed and bills to pay.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Stop worrying about whether or not you are doing the right thing and live the way you feel is right.

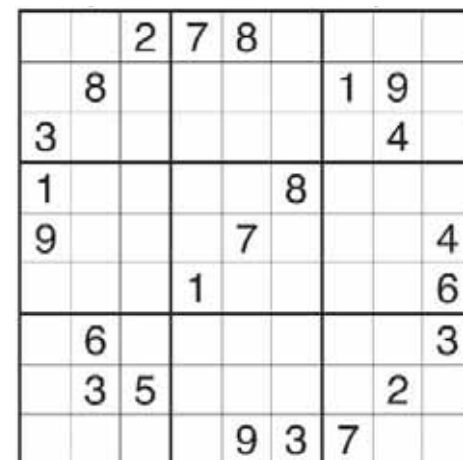
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't push yourself too hard or take on any new responsibilities over the next 24 hours — and don't let other people talk you into doing things.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Venus in your fellow Air sign of Gemini will do wonders for your confidence over the next few days but with Saturn strong at the moment as well you there will still be challenges.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
If you need to say sorry for something you did earlier in the month then say it now. Venus in the domestic area of your chart means others will happily forgive and forget.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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